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Saipan Tribune

75¢

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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'ERASE BULLYING DAY' CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students and teachers of San Vicente Elementary School gather in front of the school's stage as part of the celebration of Erase Bullying Day on Wednesday. The occasion, which is observed nationally, is celebrated by wearing pink shirts for the day.

'Laws passed in violation of OGA are null and void'

» Hunter's counsel, however, states that particular remedy not addressed in their settlement deal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Under the Open Government Act, laws passed in violation of the OGA are null and void, but that particular remedy was not addressed in the settlement agreement between private citizen Glen Hunter, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, and two lawmakers, according to Hunter's counsel, Jennifer Dockter, yesterday.

See LAWS on Page 4

'Quichocho made fraudulent transfer of lands, properties'

» 10 parcels of land transferred to a brother
» 2 parcels of land transferred to uncle for $1

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Disbarred lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho allegedly transferred 10 parcels of land on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to his brother, Ignacio, supposedly for $30,000, while his and wife's jury trial were ongoing

See QUICHOCHO on Page 4

BSI: No revenue from casino training center

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. does not expect to earn from a "live" training facility it plans to construct at the first level of the DFS building in Garapan.

Company CEO Mark Brown said the business group is just waiting for the Saipan Lottery Commission to give its

See BSI on Page 4

MVA looks to Russia market's rebound

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Looking at the arrival numbers from Russia these days would get your stomach dropping. From a highest ever total of 13,856 in fiscal year 2014, it has nosedived to just a little over 1,300 in the last five months—a steep plunge equivalent to diving off a cliff.

No less than Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio acknowledged the downward spiral in tour-

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Gilbane Federal opens a branch office on Capitol Hill.
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LOCAL
Forty companies take part in the Cooperation Training and Job Fair.
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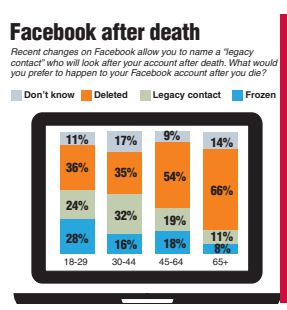

LIFE & STYLE
Death may take you but it doesn't have to extinguish your online persona.
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Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway.

Local

Lawmakers to scrutinize 72-hour notice provision

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers are looking at amending a provision in the Senate and House of Representatives that calls for a 72-hour grace period for proposed bills and other notices in the Legislature.

Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan) said the 72-hour grace period can cause delays.

He noted a typical "document work flow" where a bill is proposed, given to the specific committee for review, presented to a public hearing, and then reviewed again, before being passed.

In most of the steps, lawmakers should allow for at least a 72-hour notice before the next step is taken. "Those hours in between can pile up into days," the House floor leader said.

He said he is all for transparency, but the allotted grace period seems to be too long.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) echoed Camacho's sentiments, adding that it might be time for a review of the 72-hour grace period.

Guerrero said the issue was considered even earlier. The lawmaker lamented that the grace period further slows down the Legislature.

The 72-hour notice came to light again after Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and House vice speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) admitted to violating the Open Government Act in the passage of Public Laws 18-38 and 18-43, also known as the Saipan casino law.

The admission was made as part of a settlement agreement between the officials and private citizen Glen Hunter, who sued the lawmakers and the CNMI government for not complying with the notice provisions of the OGA when the Saipan casino law was enacted.

The case arises from the passage of two bills—HB 18-179 (casino bill) and HB 18-182 (amendment to the casino bill)—by the Legislature, where the required public notices were issued less than 72 hours before the sessions when the bills were passed, or the agenda in the public notice failed to include both bills as topics for discussion.

Speaker Deleon Guerrero, in an earlier interview, denied doing anything wrong saying the "we're just following the rules."

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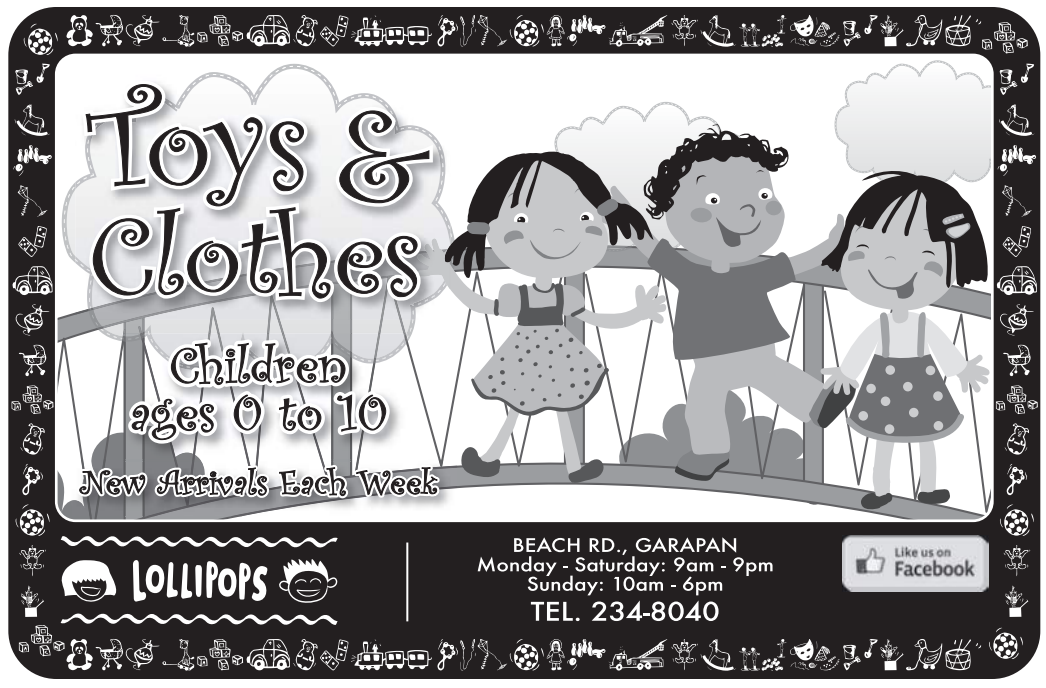

DCCA's Ogumoro responds to critics

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro says she continues to carry out her responsibilities in making improvements at the department despite several staff concerns over her leadership.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Ogumoro said the recent allegations against her are unfounded and without justification, intended only to disrupt her ongoing work for DCCA's stability and progress.

"DCCA requires a lot of attention to remain effective and consistent with this administration's mandates. I find it unnecessary and unprofessional to waste efforts in trying to resolve matters that are clearly unjustified and uncalled for," Ogumoro said.

In early February, DCCA staff sent a strongly worded letter to Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres—through members of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council—complaining about Ogumoro's leadership.

Ogumoro said she believes all personnel must make their grievances known, but through proper channels.

"I believe anyone has every right to let his or her grievance be heard, and I encourage them to seek the assistance of the appropriate agency with the authority to investigate such allegations. In this case, it is the Office of Personnel Management, and not the office of the SAA [Special Assistant for Administration]."

Ogumoro said she has issued notices, advising these individuals of their rights and the proper way to file grievances.

She said the allegations has led to identifying areas that need to be addressed to prevent such upheavals from reoccurring. Although she has always touted the importance of effective communication through each of her division directors and their personnel, recent developments revealed that this was not followed, she said.

"If given the opportunity to continue my role as the DCCA secretary, corrective actions shall take place. These actions may include reorganization of division roles and procedures to ensure that all concerns from staff are not overlooked, or are handled properly and communicated by division directors. The directors play a very important role in this department to ensure that all concerns are communicated and dealt with properly. A director must possess such skills to direct the division. Absent that, certain changes need to be made," Ogumoro said.

When asked about her overall impression of what transpired, Ogumoro said, "What I have been doing in this department is in the best interest of the governor's administration and the general public. It is up to the governor to decide whether or not to retain my services in this department."

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QUICHOCHO

From Page 1

in federal court, according to attorney Robert T. Torres.

That case eventually ended up with the Quichocho couple being held liable to pay $2.4 million in damages to businesswoman Jung Ja Kim.

Torres, counsel for Kim, also found out that on Aug. 27, 2014, after the entry of final judgment in Kim's case, Quichocho quitclaimed an additional two parcels of property in Rota consisting a total of 8,077 square meters to his uncle, Joaquin Q. Atalig, for just a dollar.

Torres said Quichocho made the conveyances presumably either to avoid seizure by Kim or to avoid paying the increasing number of judgment creditors and former clients pursuing him for the fraudulent practices in which he engaged as a practicing attorney in the Commonwealth.

Quichocho

Torres disclosed his findings in Kim's motion to collect the $2.4 million award filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Wednesday.

In Kim's motion, Torres asked the court to summon Quichocho and his wife Frances and compel them to divulge information about their assets and those transferred during the course of and subsequent to the litigation.

Torres also asked the court to direct Atalig and Quichocho's brother, Ignacio, to appear at a hearing, bringing with them all documents relating all conveyances and transfers from the judgment debtors.

If the evidence confirms that Atalig and Ignacio are, in fact, in possession of assets that may be used to satisfy the judgment, Torres asked the court to issue an order voiding the 10 transfers to Ignacio and voiding the two other conveyances to Atalig.

Torres said under these circumstances, Kim may pursue assets of the Quichochos in the hands of Ignacio and Atalig that appear to have been transferred for little or inadequate consideration to avoid paying the judgment.

He said it is a matter of record that following the entry of judgment in this case, the Quichochos closed down their law firm on Saipan and their business Karissa LLC.

Torres said the Quichochos divested themselves of their interests in land and other property as of June 2014, left the CNMI, emptied their bank accounts, and took up residence in Washington State.

In addition, Torres said, their lawyer, Michael Dotts, withdrew from this case to collect fees due and owing.

Torres said neither Ramon nor Frances Quichocho has made any effort to pay the judgment against them.

The trial in Kim's racketeering lawsuit began on Feb. 3, 2014. On March 28, 2014, the jury reached a unanimous verdict, holding the Quichocho couple, and his law firm liable to pay $2.4 million in damages to Kim.

BSI

From Page 1

approval for the group to start building the temporary training facility.

The training center is expected to "simulate" a casino gaming floor, among others, where actual casino games will be played.

"As soon as the Lottery Commission gives us the approval, we will be at the site on April 15 and start construction," Brown, who was on Capital Hill to attend another meeting, said.

April 15 is the start of a two-year lease of the DFS site, Brown said, adding that Best Sunshine will "only need 15 months" to use the training facility.

Brown also clarified that the $25-million budget for the training facility includes the leasing costs.

The Commonwealth Lottery Commission on Tuesday agreed to the proposed temporary "live" training facility, but will still finalize amendments to Public Law 18-38 or the casino law, which does not have provisions for such as facility.

DFS tenants, manpower

If the proposal gets the green light from Capital Hill, Best Sunshine will immediately proceed with the construction of the facility.

Brown said DFS tenants currently occupying the DFS floor will be placed in other suitable areas of the building.

At this point, the floor plans and general layout of the "live" training facility has been finalized, Brown said.

Applications have also started coming, after Best Sunshine announced "want ads" in various media organizations. Best Sunshine is looking at 500 personnel for the training facility.

According to Brown, Best Sunshine will prioritize the job openings for local residents but if the 500 slots are not filled, then offshore hires will be brought in.

The 500 initial employees for the training facility will then be integrated into the manpower pool of a 250-room hotel that Best Sunshine will put up in a property adjacent to DFS.

However, Best Sunshine will still have to wait for a final decision from Capital Hill before the training facility goes full blast, Brown said.

MVA

From Page 1

ist arrivals from Russia, which used to be seen as a potential growth market for the islands.

The current reality for the Russian market still remains a question because of that country's economic crisis stemming from the Ukraine crisis and collapse in world oil prices.

Political conflict between Russia, Europe, and the United States surrounding Crimea led to a series of economic and political sanctions against Russia that negatively affected outbound tourism from Russia to Europe and the U.S.

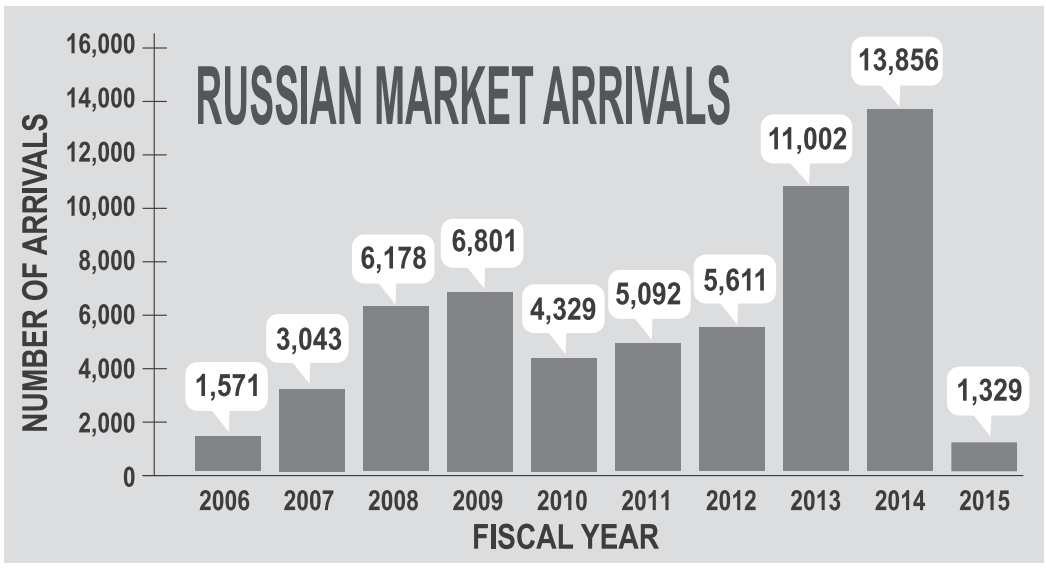
Air carriers, tour operators, and charter companies have experienced a dramatic decrease in airlift and sales, especially from the central part of Russia, as large tour operators book hard seat blocks, hotel rooms, etc. in advance.

Tenorio said many companies have experienced significant losses and this triggered a series of bankruptcies among tour operators and travel agencies throughout Russia starting in the summer of 2014, culminating with the bankruptcy of AviaCharter-DV in August 2014 and eliminating the direct non-stop charter flights from East Russia to Saipan.

"Despite the bankruptcy of Aviacharter-DV, total arrivals from Russia to the CNMI in 2014 exceeded 2013 arrivals by 2 percent as the growth in arrivals was extremely high from January to July 2014. With the cancellation of the AviaCharter-DV flights however, arrivals from Russia, fiscal year 2015 year to date, is now about 70 percent lower than last year," Tenorio said.

The Russia market in the CNMI began to take off in 2006 when Asiana Airlines established its first office in the Far East Russia, providing easy access from the region to the CNMI via Seoul.

Russian visitors increased four-fold from 2006 to 2009, from 1,571 to 6,799 visitors per year, and doubled in 2013 to 10,987 visitors with the launch of AviaCharter-DV charter flights to the CNMI. From April 2013 to April 2014, Russia was the fastest-growing source market for the CNMI, with 40 percent annual growth.



Source: Marianas Visitors Authority

"The political crisis in Ukraine and economic sanctions against Russia, in conjunction with the collapse in world oil prices, have negatively affected the entire Russian economy and has caused a 90-percent devaluation of the Russia currency since the beginning of 2014, effectively making travel to the CNMI 90 percent more expensive for Russians. The issue is not costs in the CNMI, but the collapse of the Russian ruble, which has made it impossible for regular tourists to plan their travel expenses," Tenorio said

In a separate interview, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Gloria Cavanaugh said that after AviaCharters-DV pulled out, the Russian market almost completely diminished. When asked how Russian tourist occupancy was at Mariana Resort and Spa during the market's heyday, Cavanaugh, who is the hotel's general manager, said they enjoyed repeater guests from the former Soviet Union.

Cavanaugh said that in January 2014 the Russian market comprised 9 percent of total HANMI hotel rooms sold. That amount is now down to 3 percent.

She said that from November 2013 to November 2014, the Russian market went down 72.7 percent. It further went down to 60 percent from October 2013 to October 2014, while based on December 2014 numbers it went down 85 percent more.

Staying home

A family of Russian tourists who've visited Saipan frequently since 2011 said they wouldn't be visiting this year because of the expensive flights via Asiana Airlines. They normally stay at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Katya Prokopenko, 14, along with her mother, Nina, and her younger brother Vova, 12, who was contacted by *Saipan Tribune* through Facebook, said they would just spend summer this year in Vladivostok, where they live.

Prokopenko said she vacationed on Saipan about five times, while her brother and mother vacationed eight times. She said her mother and brother visited in the summer of 2011, while she got the chance to visit Saipan in the summer of 2012. They last visited in the summer of 2014.

"We usually travel by Asiana Airlines. Charters cost cheaper, but now there are no charters. So I don't think we'll be visiting this year. Now we can't travel by charters cause they are closed and Asiana is really expensive and booking hotels is expensive too. I feel sorry because the economics of our country is so low, so now I'll spend all summer here and I miss the workers at PIC. We're not sure when we'll travel back to Saipan," Prokopenko said.

Prognosis, MVA strategy

Although the crisis continues, the Russian ruble is now showing signs of stabilizing and there are initial signs of recovery in demand, with reservations for the end of spring-summer 2015 showing a gradual recovery in reservations to the CNMI for the late spring-summer 2015, according to Tenorio

"As soon as Russia's economy begins to stabilize in 2015, we fully expect the numbers of Russian visitors to start to increase once again, in tandem with economic stability. Faster recovery of tourism from Russia is predicted from the end of 2015 to 2016," Tenorio said.

The only route to the CNMI from Russia is via Seoul on Asiana, and as a result, the MVA Russia team is working closely with Asiana to provide discounts for air tickets to the CNMI via Seoul and is launching joint CNMI promotions with Asiana throughout the East Russia market.

MVA Russia is also continually working with major travel agents to lay the groundwork for the re-launch of charter flights to the CNMI from East Russia once Russia's economy stabilizes.

"Russians will not stop travelling during the coming year, but time is needed to adjust to the new reality, and under these circumstances, the MVA will continue to support its airline and travel trade partners in the Russia market, and maintain visibility for the CNMI as a world-class destination for Russians in anticipation of the recovery of the market in the years to come," Tenorio said.

LAWS

From Page 1

Dockter told *Saipan Tribune* that the effect of the admission of Torres, House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), and House vice speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) to OGA violations in the second version of the casino law (the repeal and reenact) is unknown.

In settling Hunter's OGA lawsuit, Torres, Deleon Guerrero, and Demapan admitted to violating the OGA in the enactment of public laws 18-38 and 18-43, also known as the Saipan casino law.

Torres and the two lawmakers also agreed to pay Hunter's counsel, Dockter, $10,000 as payment for all attorney's fees in prosecuting the claims. The parties agreed that all other fees and costs shall be waived. Hunter claimed to have incurred attorney's fees in excess of $20,000.

As part of the deal, the parties moved to dismiss the lawsuit with prejudice, which means Hunter cannot re-open it anymore. Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman granted the motion on Wednesday.

On the $10,000 attorney's fees, Dockter said the amount has already been paid on a government check.

She said the defendants should be the ones asked whether the money came from their own pockets or from public funds.

When asked for comment about the settlement of the OGA lawsuit, Dockter said the manner in which the first casino bill was passed offends basic notions of how an honest and transparent government should conduct itself.

Dockter said the admission of OGA violations by some of the CNMI's highest officials is a great step toward a more open, more transparent government.

She said Hunter hopes this lawsuit and ultimate settlement function as a springboard for the education of not only public officials but also for citizens who demand to be part of the legislative process.

"The OGA is one tool that citizens—like Hunter—should not be afraid to use to ensure that they are not forced to sit idly by while their role in democracy is eroded," the lawyer pointed out.

Hunter sued the government, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, the Lottery Commission, Torres, Deleon Guerrero, Demapan, and Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) for violating the OGA when they enacted the Saipan Casino Act without following the OGA's public notice provisions.

Prior to the settlement deal, the parties agreed to dismiss the claims against Inos and Ogumoro.

Last October, Wiseman dismissed the Lottery Commission as a party to the lawsuit.

‘Hefner’s life, work on Saipan a huge part of his life’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Superior Court presiding judge Robert A. Hefner’s life on Saipan and his work in the CNMI was an important and huge part of his life, according to Hefner’s only surviving child, Coral.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Coral, a teacher, said her father wanted her to let everyone on Saipan, friends, and family know of his health condition.

Coral said she doubts very much if her father would have lived this long if he hadn’t taken that first job as assistant attorney general for the Trust Territory on Saipan, the judge position on Palau, and the judge positions on Saipan.

“He loved being on the islands and with the people of the islands,” she said.

Hefner is battling cancer in Washington and needs prayers for his recovery, according to retired CNMI chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz on Wednesday.

In this photo provided by his family, former Superior Court presiding judge Robert A. Hefner is shown with his grandchildren Kelly and Forest during Thanksgiving Day celebration in 2010 in Washington.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dela Cruz has been communicating with Coral regarding Hefner’s condition.

Coral said her father is at St. Anthony’s in Gig Harbour, Washington, and has been there since last Sunday with a blood clot in the left leg.

Coral said her father was undergoing chemotherapy treatment, but it was destroying his qualify of life, so he finally decided last Tuesday that he was done with it.

Hefner will be discharged this Friday (Saturday Saipan time).

“I will bring him home to his place here in McCormick Woods, and a hospice nurse will meet us to discuss his care and needs,” she said.

Coral said her father was in the Korean War during the early 1950s and fell in love with the Pacific.

Coral said when she was born in 1956 in Santa Monica, California, her father decided that she would be “Coral.”

Hefner served as Superior Court presiding judge from 1989 to 1991. He was chief judge of the Trial Court (now Superior Court) from 1985 to 1989. He served as associate judge of the Trial Court from 1979 to 1985.

Prior to being named trial judge, Hefner served as one of the associate justices on the Trust Territory High Court.

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TRO stops man from blocking Airport Road on Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued a temporary restraining order yesterday that stops an estate administrator from blocking Airport Road on Rota due to the government's alleged nonpayment for the taking of their private land.

Camacho issued the TRO after the CNMI government, through assistant attorney general Christopher M. Timmons, requested a TRO and filed a motion for preliminary injunction and a complaint against Simeon E. Taisacan, who is the administrator of the estate of Selvino A. Taisacan.

Camacho directed Taisacan and other persons in concert with him to refrain from blockading or interfering with the public's use of the road.

"The threatened injury to the people of Rota is immediate and irreparable. It is irreparable because it will be impossible to determine the precise amount of damage to the safety and well-being of the public and in terms of the inconvenience caused to the public," the judge said.

Camacho set the TRO hearing for March 6 at 10:30am at the Rota Courthouse.

Timmons stated that Taisacan wrote the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Feb. 17, threatening to close Airport Road on Rota on Sunday, March 1, at 8am.

Timmons said Taisacan also wrote on Sept. 24, 2014, a letter declaring the CNMI government under default and informed the government, private businesses, and the public that the same road will not be closed but that there will be a fee for those who wish to access the property.

Timmons said Taisacan has long asserted that the government took two parcels of their land to build Airport Road, but he, however, has not filed a lawsuit.

Timmons said Taisacan has a long history of harassing and interfering with CUC employees and that this harassment led to CUC filing a lawsuit against him in 2012.

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig disclosed that he personally met with Taisacan last Feb. 18 in an effort to avert his threat.

"Taisacan was unwilling to discuss his threats with me," said Atalig, adding that he believes Taisacan will indeed block Route 10, also known as Airport Road, on Sunday, if he is not restrained from doing so.

Timmons asked the court to permanently stop Taisacan from blockading or interfering with the public's use of Airport Road.

According to Timmons, the estate of Selvino A. Taisacan owns two lots, which are part of Route 10. He said the two lots were subject to a dispute between the heirs of Selvino A. Taisacan and one Juan A. Hattori, an adjoining landowner.

Timmons said that on Nov. 15, 1985, Hattori and the Marianas Public Land Commission entered into a deed of exchange, by which Hattori transferred two lots to MPLC in exchange for another lot on Saipan.

Timmons said this deed that was recorded on Nov. 15, 1985, is valid and that one of the subject lot is owned by the Department of Public Lands as MPLC's successor.

The lawyer said Airport Road is a major public thoroughfare that connects the Airport and Dugi and Sinapalo villages to Songsong village.

Although there is an alternative road to Songsong, portions of the alternate road have become dilapidated and practically impassable for smaller vehicles.

Timmons added that utilities such as water pipes and electricity lines run along Airport Road.

Reyes clarifies role of casino commission

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission's main function is to regulate casino gaming in the island while being mindful of the casino license that the government has given.

Joseph Reyes, vice chairman of the casino commission, further said it is the Commonwealth Lottery Commission's main job to review the licenses.

Reyes made the clarification after the commission met with representatives of Best Sunshine International, Ltd. on Capital Hill on Tuesday.

Best Sunshine met with the commission to essentially present the proposed "live" training facility that it plans to build in Garapan.

Reyes said the commission will now look at regulatory protocols that might be applicable to the "live" training facility.

He said the commission is "open-minded" and will look into regulations that are currently being used in places like Macau and the Philippines, where casinos are operating.

"Our role is mainly to look if regulations are being properly followed, while still being mindful of the casino license," Reyes said.

Early this month, the roster for the five-man commission was finally completed, after months of deliberations and scrutiny.

Martin DLG. San Nicolas was the last one appointed to the post, joining commission chair Juan M. Sablan and members Reyes, Alvaro A. Santos, and Justin S. Manglona.

Sablan, Reyes, and Santos represent Saipan, Manglona represents Rota, while San Nicolas represents Tinian. The casino commission is allowed to have five commissioners, according to the law.

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DENNIS B. CHAN
Gilbane Federal vice president Daryl Greenway cuts the cake celebrating the opening of the company's offices on Capital Hill yesterday.

CUC Tank 102 project begins; Gilbane opens CNMI office

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Steel was laid for the floor of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Tank 102 yesterday, reported to be a 500,000-gallon diesel fuel tank to replace one that's non-repairable and a source of pollution.

At the same time, Gilbane Federal, a California-based full service construction company that will oversee this project, opened their office near Ristorante Italiano on Capitol Hill yesterday. The company was selected by the district court in December to expeditiously complete some CUC projects.

Gilbane Federal vice president Daryl Greenway said they are here to get projects "going quickly."

"The steel [laying] on the Tank 102 started today, and the construction will take five months if all goes well. In 30 to 45 days, we will begin the pipeline project, and that's a longer project, some very specialized equipment comes to the island for this horizontal direct drilling portion, 700 feet drilling underground. That equipment hasn't left Honolulu, so it will take awhile. The other parts of the project that will not require directional drilling would start sooner," he said.

"The pipeline will be done this year. Depending on weather and a few things, it will be later this year," he added.

Asked how the new tank would add to CUC capacity, he pointed to the lack of a "back-up" capacity that prevents them from inspecting and repairing existing tanks.

"What happens now is the fuel comes onto a pier down in Mobil that runs a pipeline down to Tank 103, then is fed from Tank 103 into the generators and power plant. …Right now there is no back up capacity for Tank 103," he said.

Once built and commissioned, he said fuel can be stored in Tank 102 and Tank 103 can be drained for inspection and repair.

"It's a very routine thing that you get inside a fuel tank and inspect every few years to see if there is any holes or any leakage and so that's on the program for probably late this year for Tank 103," he said.

The company will employ a handful of its own staff, he said, as well as specialty contractors. It also plans to hire local contractors.

After these projects, he said they look to do studies on CUC power plants 1, 2, and 4 as well as the power plant on Rota.

"Part of what seems to be next is how the power plants are really draining, how they shed the surface drainage… into the environment and not add pollution," he said.

The possibly study would look at how drainage works right now. "Is there any pollution going on? Where do the drains go? And how does the water run in rainstorm?" he said of questions that will be asked.

According to Greenway, the overall timeline for some 13 CUC projects is five years at $22 million worth of projects.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter, Gilbane Federal and CUC management officials, Department of Justice senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien, and CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan, among others, were present at the opening yesterday.

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Godfather's Bar donates $2K to anti-cancer group

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JAYSON CAMACHO

Godfather's Bar donates $2,032 to the Commonwealth Cancer Association to promote its mission in fighting cancer and raising awareness in the CNMI. From left to right: CCA board vice president Roman T. Palacios, president Lauri B. Ogumoro, Godfather's Bar owner Scott Dottino and Ron Biggers, CCA board secretary Bobbi Grizzard, CCA patient navigation and outreach coordinator Patricia Kaipat, CCA board medical adviser Dr. Dan Lamar, and CCA trainee Audrey Ada.

Godfather's Bar owners Ron Biggers and Scott Dottino handed over a $2,032 check to Commonwealth Cancer Association officials yesterday afternoon at CCA's office on Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

CCA program manager Juan Babauta and CCA board members accepted the check on behalf of the association.

Biggers said the funds were raised during a Corn Hole Tournament fundraiser the Godfather's Bar hosted last Saturday at its beach location.

The event was sponsored by USNS *Vadm K.R. Wheeler,* Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Joeten Enterprises Inc., Cosmos Distributing, Let's Go!, Kanoa Resort, IT&E, 670 Rock Steady Shop, Duvel, Shell Gas Station Puerto Rico, Megavision El Drako Tattoo, Brabu Pharmacy, Beluga Noble Russian Vodka, D&Q International Distributors, Tan Siu Lin Foundations, and Seatouch.

"Every year we pick out different charities and organizations that we can help out in the community and we've got friends here in CCA so we decided to choose them to benefit from the fundraiser. We felt really good about it and it was real successful and we'd like to do something like this annually," Biggers said.

Dottino said they have friends and family members affected by cancer and that prompted them to contribute to CCA.

"Especially here on Saipan, cancer affects the local community and I think that there is not someone among us who doesn't have someone in the family or know someone who has cancer. Hopefully what we've raised helps them a lot," Biggers said.

CCA board medical adviser Dr. Dan Lamar said that every donation is appreciated and that Saipan has such a broad support from the community.

"I think that CCA has been a very good custodians to the community…so it is a great partnership and they support the individuals in the community having to deal with cancer," Lamar said.

Pedestrian killed in Guam crash

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam police are investigating the death of a man killed after he was struck by a car while walking in Mangilao.

Pacific Daily News reports the crash occurred Tuesday night on Route 10. The victim was identified as 38-year-old Songas Machusy of Mangilao.

Police say the 51-year-old driver of the Nissan Xterra—Richard Duenas Cruz of Mangilao—was arrested on charges including vehicular homicide and driving while intoxicated.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Would-be Mars explorers display courage beyond words

It's good, in times like these, to be reminded of the human spirit—of its capacity for wonder and courage.

What seems impossible, what seems ever out of reach, is exactly what we seem most driven to get, to explore, to know.

Mars, on average, is 140 million miles from Earth. A trip there would take a good part of a year, assuming speeds in the range of 35,000 mph.

Once there, a person is faced with a "hostile" environment, to borrow the word of the nonprofit organization Mars One. Deadly is more accurate. The atmosphere is some 95 percent carbon dioxide. The average temperature is 80 degrees below zero.

When Mars One announced it wanted to establish a colony on the Red Planet, it minced no words about the challenges of the journey.

"Mars is an unforgiving environment where a small mistake or accident can result in large failure, injury and death," the group's website tells us. "Every component must work perfectly. Every system (and its backup) must function without fail or human life is at risk."

More than 200,000 people immediately applied to go.

That number has been whittled to 100 candidates. Those in the final selection of a handful of colonists will undergo years of training before a planned launch in 2024.

There is an important catch. If they go, they cannot return.

According to Mars One's website, the technology isn't yet available to get colonists back from Mars.

That people would readily, even eagerly, seek life and, yes, death, on Mars is what fascinates us about this possibility.

One of the 100 finalists cleverly dismissed the concern about never coming home.

"I would probably die on Earth if I stayed here, too," he said.

That's true. But life here is a far different thing from life all but alone so very far away in such a cold and desolate place.

It's been centuries since explorers set out on wooden sailing ships over uncharted water to lands that they didn't know. What drove them we cannot always say, whether search for fortune or something else.

Whatever the impulse, the act itself is extraordinary. To cast oneself into the unknown, out into the abyss of a place as cruel as Mars, is a monumental testament to our will.

To do so with knowledge you could never return is ineffable.

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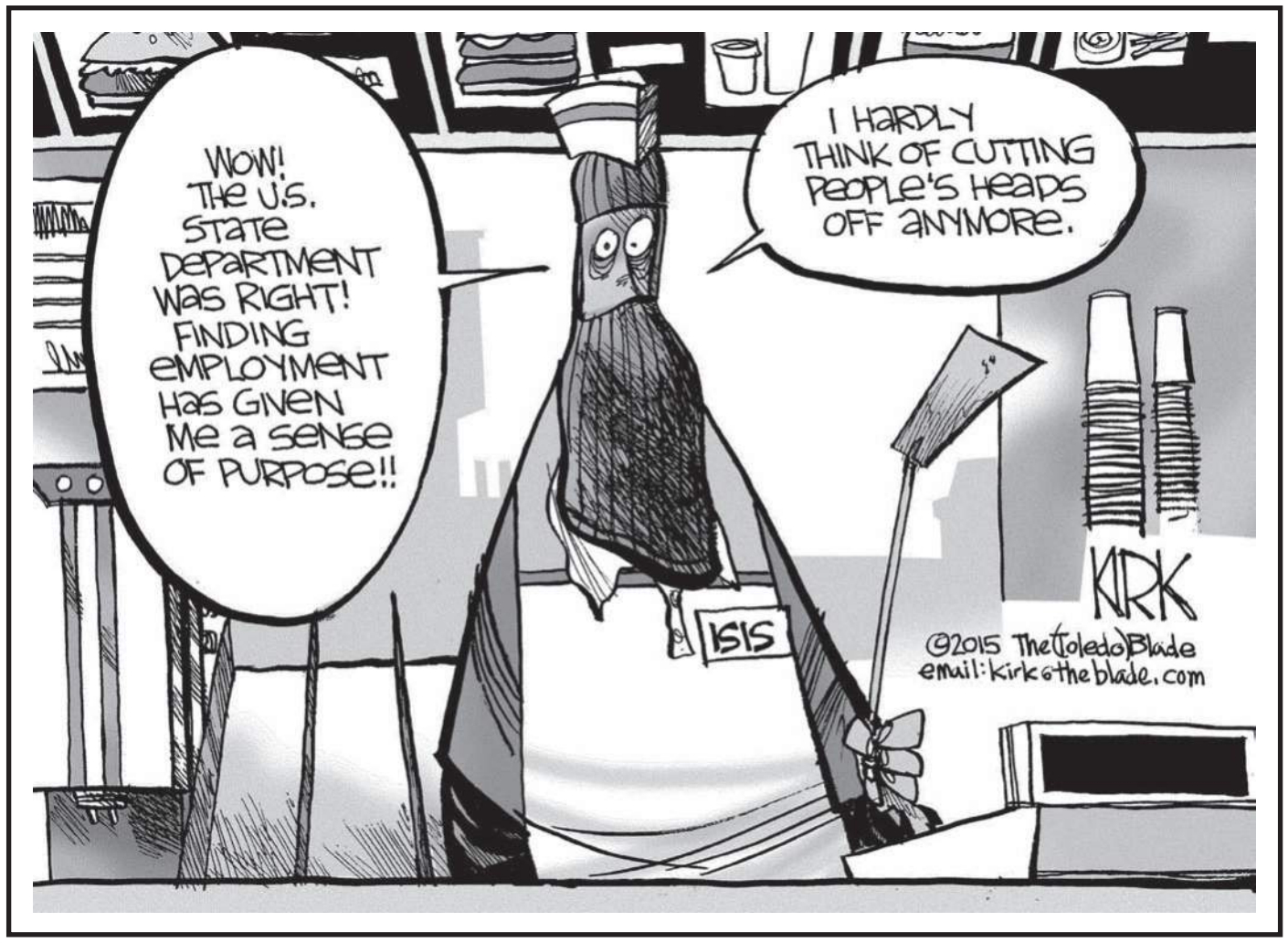
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I HARDLY THINK OF CUTTING PEOPLE'S HEADS OFF ANYMORE.
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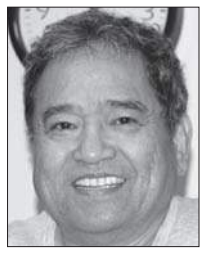
Happy Ewe Year!

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Traditional Chinese society observes 15-days of spring holiday which is also the onset of the year in its lunisolar calendar. However, *Yang,* the Zodiac sign for the year, is the same word for lamb, ram, goat, and sheep. Since the characteristics of the animals in the symbol are often the source of the qualities and virtues of persons born under the sign, those born under this year's Zodiac sign can take their pick which animal to revere.

A hospital in Shanghai reports that its birth rate goes down 20 percent when it is the Year of the Lamb because mothers are afraid of birthing docile children. Of course, we also know of the bold lines and *mucho macho gusto* associated with Ram trucks, so fathers have their own ideas, though they hardly prevail in matters like this, for as patriarchal as China is, mothers still prevail. The goat and its known versatility, its survival skills and its mutton are also desired. Ask the San Mig swigging *kambinganeros* among the Pinoys and their eyes would tell you that they could not wait for the next trip!

This year is definitely cuisine. The ewe, a female sheep, hangs as a roasted leg of mutton at the meat shop and it is the BBQ of choice for the canopied and tented stalls and sidewalk tables, particular this wintry cold snow-laden Chinese spring!

As the Kiwis of New Zealand are all too familiar (I drove through and around the North and South Islands one half-moon of a fall in the late '80s), the mint and other spices are generously spread out to counter the distinct mutton scent, and today's ewe is no exception when laid out roasted in a pan at the center of the dining table. Ah, the furry creatures that delight with meat and wool; could not lose.

OK, let us segue to the lunisolar calendar that China officially uses since 1984. In 1913, China started with the solar first day but that did not last long as five millennia of cyclical reckoning with the moon would not exit easily.

Readers would have to do their own research on this as trying to explain the heavenly and earthly stem branches that make a 60-year lunisolar cycle can be daunting to the Western educated mind.

We start with the heavenly stem after the five elements of wood, fire, earth, metal, and water with each joined to a *yin* and a *yang* in Sino dualism and you have 10 "elements," a misnomer since the definition of each is more qualitative rather than numerical, best considered as "state of being" that is more sensual than intellectual and not conferred characteristics from up in the sky. The middle kingdom is actually "earth" before *Zhong*—center was appropriated for the nation *Zhongguo,* a Western geophysical designation when in fact, it was considered a state of being.

Anyway, marry the 10 elements to 12 earthly branches results in a 60-cycle. These branches are the Rat, Ox (water buffalo in Vietnam), Tiger, Rabbit (cat in Vietnam), Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. The Zodiac signs are similar in the rest of Sinosphere (China, Koreas, and Japan). We do know that the "dragon" is an imaginary category, but that will have to wait for another article. The rest of the Zodiac animals are for real. If born under one of the branches, an odd year would be a *yin* and the even year would be *yang.* Like that would make it any clearer!

I was once with an NMC friend whose birthday was supposed to be her 22nd so I took her out to dinner, having failed to introduce her to a young man her age as earlier promised. The event in fact was only her 20th in the solar count but born in January, she went by the lunar reckoning. The event would turn up to be elegiac in the manner of a Ben Kingsley and Penelope Cruz.

In any case, if any of our readers is asked out for a lamb BBQ twice in a year, they'd be glad for the chance to nurse a San Miguel twice. The inviting friend would be one of those born in the fuzzy zone between the solar and lunar calendars, universally true of China and its lunisolar calendar.

Forty years was the generational timeframe in the Levant, thus the 40 years in the desert for the liberated Hebrews in exodus from Egypt with only Joshua of the starters able to cross the Jordan into the Holy Land. The New Testament uses 40 days in the desert for Jesus to firm up his vocation, and the liturgy that followed medieval Europe observes 40 weekdays of fasting for Lent from Ash Wednesday to Good Saturday before Easter Sunday.

Hindus aim to Om their way to four phases of existence at 20 years each, a total of 80 for a generation. The 60-year cycle of the Chinese calendar reflects a lifetime as well.

Back to the ewe and the barbecue. A Korean colleague's name, though born and bred in NYC, is exotic and unique Eumi. My Hispanic "Jaime" is pronounced "Hemi" by Shenyang Aerospace University, which my students quickly turned into Hemingwei since they read Ernest's *The Old Man and the Sea* in high school. This year, Hemi becomes "Ewe Me." Will oblige if needed for roasting.

Happy Ewe Year!

Sneaky words

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

I don't know nothing about no grammar, which is fine with me, since nobody has ever asked me what "subjunctive" or "gerund" means. Still, even a dedicated delinquent has to admit that some words are nothing but trouble, especially words that look alike, sound alike, or maybe just smell alike. Whatever they're up to, it's never any good.

I'm going to mention some of these stinkers, and how I try to use the most simplistic means to sort them out for the most common cases. As simple as I try to keep this stuff, though, I still mange to mess it up. If you want to contribute some corrections or wisdom, I'm all ears.

In the meantime, we can pretend that we're being all educational and high-minded here, so let's hunker down in the back of the class, light up a cigarette, and note some sneaky words:

1) Stationary vs. stationery

I botch this one all the time. "Stationary" means not going anywhere. "Stationery" is the stuff you buy in office supply stores.

2) Discrete vs. discreet

This might be the English language's biggest gotcha'. If you like math, you'll recognize "discrete" as meaning elements that are individually distinct, as opposed to "continuous" elements that, like parts of a smooth line, blend together so you can't really tell where one piece of data starts and the other ends. This is where Newton and Leibniz joined the stage; they cooked up calculus, which enabled us to calculate continuous functions without having to chop them into discrete approximations.

As for the deceptively similar twin "discreet," it means not being a blabbermouth, or, in the broader sense, using sound judgment.

3) Vein, vane, vain

A "vein" is what doctors like to jab needles into, and what miners like to jab pickaxes into. Since the term "in like vein" is common, I'll assume that a line of thought or a type of circumstance can, just like a line of blood or gold, form a vein. Well, that's my guess. If you don't like it, I have others.

Moving along here: A "vane" is a mechanism that pivots due to fluid or gas flow. A weathervane, which pivots based on wind direction, is an example. There might be other common meanings to the word, but I don't remember seeing any.

As for "vain," it means egotistical or self-satisfied. It also means futile: "Their efforts were in vain."

4) Site, sight, cite

A "site" involves a place, or putting something in a place; you site a building at the construction site. And, there's "website," too, so I guess that's a kind of place. "Sight," by contrast, pertains to seeing. And then we have "cite," which means to quote something (cite a footnote) or that somebody got in trouble and has got some explaining to do (cite the offender).

5) Further vs. farther

If I'm dealing with physical distances, I'll opt for "farther." Otherwise, I'll use "further." There's probably more to the issue than that, but I refuse to think about it any further.

6) Hanger vs. hangar

A "hanger" is where you put your shirt. A "hangar" is where you put your airplane. The similarity is rooted in an aeronautical fact: Many people who buy airplanes lose their shirts.

7) Canvas vs. canvass

Oh, this really is a sneaky one. Sneakers and tents are made of canvas. If you wanted to sell them door-to-door, you'd canvass the neighborhood.

8) Effect vs. affect

Somebody tried to explain this to me once, but I started drooling and fell asleep. In order to avoid another one of those episodes, I think of it like this: Keeping in mind the term "cause and effect," I'll consider that "effect," as a noun, means a result of something, and as a verb, is a cause of something. So they seem to go along with each other like two sides of the same coin. Hey, maybe there's some elegant symmetry in the language here. Or maybe it's just some sort of trap.

As for "affect," as a verb, it's said to mean the action of changing or influencing something.

I come up with this: "The weather affected the flight schedule." But: "The effect of the turbulence was to make the pilots spill their coffee." I don't think I see "effect" as a verb very often, but I guess your boss could order you to "effect a victory in our battle for market share," which pretty much puts me in the drooling mode again.

Well, I see that you've finished your cigarette. Me, I'm totally out of spitballs. So let's get out of here.

Geopolitical issues

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

There are geopolitical issues that have local implications. Seldom are they on our radar screen. We ignore them, though it is vital that we secure nuanced understanding what they are as they evolve at a higher level. Furthermore, everything that happens nearby should matter to us, too.

An informed friend asserted that China wants to rule the Asia-Pacific region alone. He noted that on the global economic front she's surpassed Japan and is now second after the United States. "Next, it's the geopolitical front where she would eventually rule the two regions."

The assertion seems to support a study by James Jay Carafano, Ph.D. (Asian Studies). Said he: "China's economic policies are increasingly mercantilist. It is developing military capabilities to exclude others from operating in Asia. Beijing is no friend of democracy." He noted the emergence of the Quad Dialogue that would hopefully intercede via discussions for peace over weaponry or warfare.

"China is going to be China. That's not going to change anytime soon. So unless the nations that have the power to punish bad behavior and take constructive steps, the neighborhood is going to get worse for everybody," according to Carafano. China's expansive role, especially on investments all over the world, would make for greater use of intellectual or neighborly rather than "kaboom" diplomacy. Another scholar is of the view that China is out to change regional order in Asia and the Pacific.

Now, China wants the U.S. to accept a working relationship as the world's two most powerful countries globally. Would this pan out when President Jinping visits D.C.? Recently, Japan and China have turned "agree to disagree" into an art. Interesting!

Information is power

Most folks have simplistic, if any, understanding of what investments entail. And so they listen and accept tidings at face value. Therefore it's hard to connect the dots where a certain investment is headed up ahead.

We've become servile bystanders, sitting at the fence watching the casino baseball game. The NMI home team isn't sure if it is playing baseball, softball, or tennis. So you could imagine the colossal frustration coaching our team. For all we know it could end up a Russian roulette at day's end.

It seems a pattern, though, (even across the country) where legislators take the quick exit into casino as the Holy Grail in rebooting a state economy. Bankruptcy has forced closure. Even the methodology used to project the missing revenue had to be revamped.

China's President Xi Jinping advised Macau to diversify its economy. This too should be the order of business here. The fickle tourism industry can never be the single driving engine of the local economy. Must move into other areas of even employing modern paradigms in farming and fishing.

As it is we don't have an economic plan and so this was hurled to the Commonwealth Development Authority to handle. Don't recall CDA trumpeting "Solutions-Driven Leadership." Gee, is there hope ahead especially for the people in the villages?

CHC's fiscal debacle

We've toyed with excesses or a bloated government we can't afford. The purposeful negligence is now knocking viciously at our front door: CHC needs money to clear its utility bill. It can't fork out what it owes CUC to the tune of over $14 million.

Since the days of the impeached former governor, there wasn't a dedicated effort to ensure CHC is funded on a timely basis. Legislators played along, ignoring that the hospital needs at least $40 million per year for its operations. Their attitude is despicably abominable!

Why is CUC charging CHC and PSS commercial rates? Shouldn't this be limited to what's known as preferred rates? None of the two entities are designed to venture into profit making schemes. Their roles are limited to healing the sick and educating our children. Is this too blurred an issue to see with clarity?

The blame game is useless. Real problem solving is staring at the elected elite to step forward for real-time answers. Well, it's a challenge you've accepted. Let's see you converge to resolve this issue once and for all.

The budgetary shortfall is still below water. So snorkeling isn't going to do the job. Never mind contracting hypoxia. You must dive and swim with the sharks to find real-time answers. After all, it's our only hospital!

Yes, liberals are less patriotic

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani instantly became the most notorious man in America when he said at a conservative dinner in Manhattan that President Barack Obama doesn't love America.

He gamely tried to defend the remark for a few days before issuing a semi-mea culpa in *The Wall Street Journal* regretting his "bluntness" and saying that he "didn't intend to question President Obama's motives or the content of his heart."

That was probably the inevitable end-point once the words came out of his mouth, since it is an unwritten rule of American public life that only liberals are allowed to call their adversaries "unpatriotic." Rudy Giuliani isn't Nancy Pelosi or Harry Reid, who have both unloosed the "un-American" bomb on conservative opponents without any risk of getting hounded from polite society.

The reaction to Giuliani's comment was so harsh, in part because he referred to Obama's upbringing. This was taken as a sign that he was "othering" Obama, or playing to dark fears about the president's past. Cue the wailing and gnashing of teeth.

But no "othering" is necessary. To be less patriotic than the average American is, as a matter of fact, a standard characteristic of the typical American liberal. The survey data are clear: There is a patriotism differential between the right and the left. Which doesn't mean that liberals don't love the country in their own fashion, but their love is not reflected in old-fashioned pride in country.

A Pew Research survey last year found that 46 percent of "steadfast conservatives" believed that the U.S. stands above all other countries; only 11 percent of "solid liberals" believed the same. Seventy-two percent of steadfast conservatives said they often feel proud to be an American; only 40 percent of solid liberals said they do.

Gallup headlined its write-up of a 2010 survey "One in Three Americans 'Extremely Patriotic': Republicans, conservatives and seniors most likely to say so." According to Gallup, 52 percent of Republicans and 48 percent of conservatives called themselves extremely patriotic; only 20 percent of Democrats and 19 percent of liberals did.

Edmund Burke famously said that "to make us love our country, our country ought to be lovely." For the left, America is lovely to the extent it corresponds to a progressive vision of a European-style welfare state that leads from behind in international affairs and pounds its chest less about its own greatness and exceptionalism. The America it can feel proud of exists not in actuality, but in prospect, as a vessel for a distinct ideological vision.

Needless to say, it is hard to pursue this project while simultaneously feeling what George Orwell, in his definition of patriotism, called "devotion to a particular place and particular way of life, which one believes to be the best in the world."

None of this means that questioning any particular politician's patriotism will ever be considered in bounds. But if Giuliani had stood up before that room of conservatives and said that liberals don't feel about this country the way we do, he would have been on unassailable ground, and had the data to prove it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for the fast response

Responding to a problem with due diligence goes a long way to restoring the people's confidence in the government. It is indeed very reassuring to know that someone in government is listening, paying attention and responding to problems in the community. My hat's off to those whose efforts went into tackling and removing that problem (speed bump on steroids) and most especially for doing so without delay. In my book that's called real progress. Thank you also *Saipan Tribune* for being instrumental in providing the medium from which our voices can be heard.

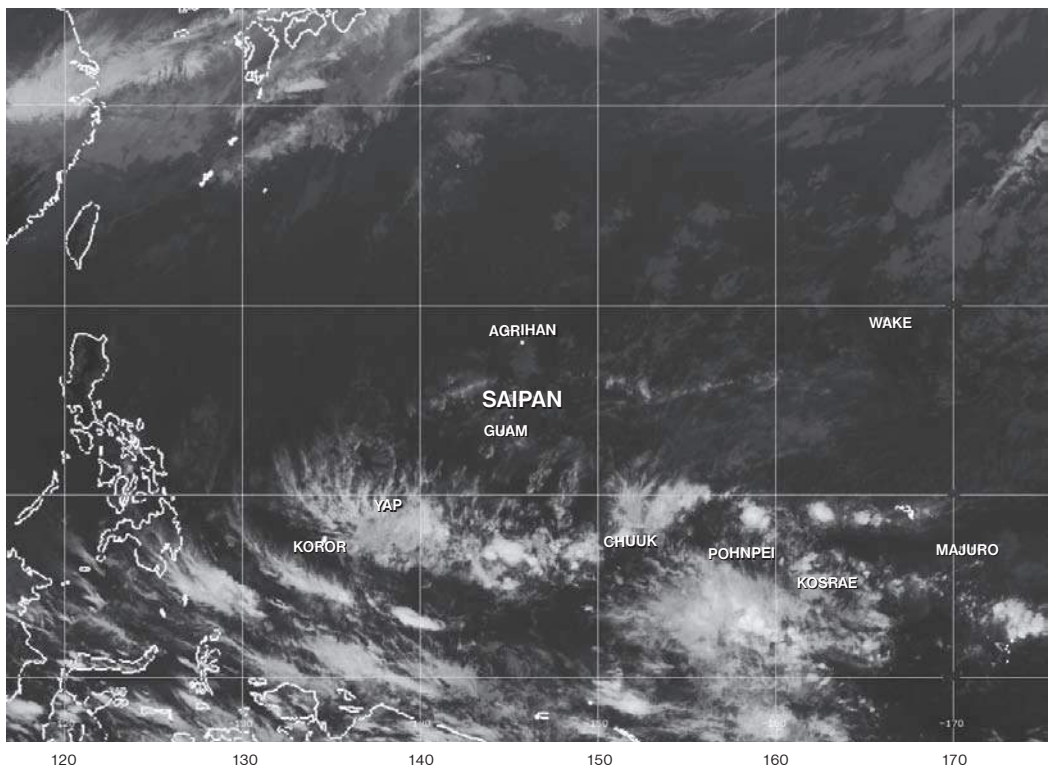
Jose C. Mafnas
As Matuis, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 13N180E to Kwajalein at 9N168E then continues westward to end east of Chuuk at 8N153E.Clouds and patchy showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary east of 170E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of this boundary between 9N170E and 9N163E while scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring between 8N and 10N from 156E to 162E. A near-equatorial trough meanders east-southeastward from south of Mindanao through 3N130E to end at a circulation centered south of Pohnpei near 1N160E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough southeast of Yap within 90 miles of a line from 8N138E to 6N147E and south of Pohnpei and over Kosrae between 1N and 6N from 155E to 165E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼61
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲42	▼26
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲70	▼65
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼69
London	Rain	▲53	▼36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲70	▼52
Manila	Sunny	▲89	▼72
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼65
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲32	▼17
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲45	▼36
Paris	Rain	▲54	▼38
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼31
Rome	Showers	▲61	▼42
Salem	Showers	▲54	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68	▼54
Seoul	Sunny	▲40	▼26
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼38
Washington, DC	Snow	▲34	▼26

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
2:03 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:34 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:10 AM	1:25A M
Saturday	2:00 PM	2:16 AM
Sunday	2:50 PM	3:04 AM
Monday	3:40 PM	3:50 AM
Tuesday	4:28 PM	4:34 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Dailly via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Strategic planning that gets you nowhere

The CHCC's CEO announced a few days ago the launch of CHCC's Strategic Plan 2015-2020, and invited stakeholders to submit comments. The 16-page document may be a mistaken understanding of the CEO because this phase (initial publication) as it appears is only an "outline." There is no plan in what was published, as the actual numbered operating strategies are subject of plans spanning the period of time extending to year 2020. So the stakeholders or consumers (as a term used in the narrative of the document) could not know what the plan is until it is actually formulated and known, and the planning process takes over.

Second, as a stakeholder and a guarded consumer of past CHC, it is commendable that CHCC seeks to renew itself by way of a strategic plan but many unfortunate stories are told of organizations that started this noble idea and ended up exiting the process faster than when the idea was conceived. It is with extreme suspicion that this may be just another fad that would end up as a wasted effort, and it may take five years before we know it is a bad idea.

The concept "indeterminacy of translations" is richly embedded in the language content of the strategic plan outline. The meaning of words used in the document is couched in concepts that do not have common understanding and strict interpretation. This is a challenge for those unfamiliar with the lingo of professionals in the healthcare arena. The problem is when professionals and principals disagree with what term and meaning stands for. So, is this initial exercise only good for the experts, and the novice are to be drafted to the side as observers, including the "advisory board" that is being portrayed as only there for ceremonial purposes? In order for CHCC to prosper, it must have a "governing board." This is a strategic issue, and it must be resolved before the next effort is entertained.

The strategic plan outline makes specific note of finding threats, opportunities, weaknesses, and strengths. But it did not elaborate what these are. In a strategic plan, the focus is to remove threats and pursue and perpetuate opportunities. Weaknesses are to be reduced and strengths are nurtured and cared for. Did CHCC finally find the chaos it is dealing with and the strategic plan is the panacea to get itself out of the storm's center? In addition, the term "efficiency" (do things right) and "effectiveness" (do the right things) are part of the scheme that will result in all these efforts. But the only best measure that makes sense to ordinary stakeholders is when full revenues are greater than least costs. And there is no way that CHCC anticipates a bottomless pit for funding to match all the scheme of things it is portraying by its initial strategic plan outline. There has to be some measure to limit the ambitious mode that is being established by the outline. Targeting infinity is just impossible; this is the issue.

Indeed as a stakeholder, the only way to get answers is not by being a principal in what CHCC is attempting to justify by its proposed strategic plan outline, but only by asking questions would draw reasons and logic to the point all these unfolding itself. The first set of inquiries is to set the foundation for subsequent questions.

1. Is CHCC not doing anything new that they should be doing?
2. Is CHCC doing things now that they should not be doing?
3. Is CHCC doing some things that they should continue to do, but in a different way?

The emphasis of the strategic plan outline places significant attention to the human resources CHCC is currently paying for. Before any serious effort to move forward with the outline, CHCC should commit its human resources capacity to ask the same questions:

1. In order to make the maximum contribution, what is this person not doing now that he or she should be doing? Note that I only mention "person" here. Positions in CHCC are a total mess. And that is a matter for further discussions.
2. In order to make the maximum contribution, what is this person doing now that he or she should not be doing?
3. In order to make the maximum contribution, what is this person doing now that he or she should continue to do in a different way?

As you can see, the scheme or idea is too simple because the CEO could ad lib in rhetoric and would be convincing that this has a happy ending. If she or the consultant is new to this business, things are not going to work out in a silver platter. In this process you will find "change initiators" but at the same time you would count just as many "change resisters," and that is just the nature of the beast. The bottom line is "leadership" and that belongs to the CEO. Strategic plan and its cohorts belong to the CEO. The politics is a given and that is what it boils down to in which the rule of the game one plays. Honesty and integrity are all relative. If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything. This is strategic plan gone without intended scores.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

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US Labor updates FMLA's definition of spouse

Workers in legal, same-sex marriages, regardless of where they live, will now have the same rights as those in opposite-sex marriages to federal job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act, or FMLA, to care for a spouse with a serious health condition. The U.S. Labor Department announced a rule change to the FMLA on Feb. 24 in keeping with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in United States v. Windsor. That ruling struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act provision that interpreted "marriage" and "spouse" to be limited to opposite-sex marriage for the purposes of federal law.

The rule change updates the FMLA regulatory definition of "spouse" so that an eligible employee in a legal same-sex marriage will be able to take FMLA leave for his or her spouse regardless of the state in which the employee resides. Previously, the regulatory definition of "spouse" did not include same-sex spouses if an employee resided in a state that did not recognize the employee's same-sex marriage. Under the new rule, eligibility for federal FMLA protections is based on the law of the place where the marriage was entered into. This "place of celebration" provision allows all legally married couples, whether opposite-sex or same-sex, to have consistent federal family leave rights regardless of whether the state in which they currently reside recognizes such marriages.

The effective date for the rule is March 27, 2015.

For additional information on the FMLA revisions, including a fact sheet and frequently asked questions, visit http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/spouse/. ***(USDOL)***

Eucon students win gold medals in Math Court

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The winning Eucon team pose for a photo after bagging two gold medals at the Math Court state finals (4th-5th Division) held at Koblerville Elementary School last Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015.

In the recently concluded Math Court state finals (4th-5th Division), Eucon students made it to the top, bagging the gold medal in the team category.

The competition was held at Koblerville Elementary School last Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015.

The Eucon team was composed of Joanah Victoria Jimenez, Allia Raine Pillarina, Gayle Noreen Vidal, and Jun Jie Yu.

Jimenez, a 5th grader, won the gold medal in the individual category. She will be part of the Team CNMI that will compete in the Math League Competition in Houston, Texas this June.

The whole Eucon family is very proud of the achievements of these young mathletes. They show good examples and give inspiration for their fellow students. The administration, faculty, and staff are also very thankful for the effort of the coach, Menette Siasoyco, for sacrificing her time in training and guiding these young mathematicians, and to the parents, proctors, and event organizers. ***(Eucon)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to my dearest husband, Benjamin Paul! I'm so glad that God sent you into this world! Our kids and I, we are truly blessed to have you in our lives and on behalf of our family we'd like to wish you the best, best birthday ever because no one deserves it more than you. We love you! Greetings come from your wife and kids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday shout out to my one and only Daddy, Vicente "Benski" Tagabuel! May God continue to bless you always and forever. We love you always!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A happiest of birthday to our awesomeness, DJ! May all your wishes and dreams come true! We love you to the moon and back! Greetings come from your Mom, Dad, and your siblings!

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* Nissan Rogue Select retail price $22,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $364.26 or $168.12 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,855.60.

Excellent job for GCA students in PGFC regionals

Ten Grace Christian Academy students bagged 14 out of 60 major awards for both divisions: Kindergarten to 2nd grade and 3rd grade to 5th grade in the 2015 Primary Grades Forensic Conference regional competition held on Feb. 14, 2015, at Kagman Elementary School.

First to 3rd place will be awarded with gold, silver, and bronze medals respectively and 4th and 5th place will get ribbons.

The winners of gold medals are 2nd graders Juliana Rue Magtalas for Readers Forum and Impromptu Speaking and Moira Grace Ernest for Humorous Interpretation.

The silver medalists are 2nd grade Tae Hee Kim for both Dramatic and Humorous Interpretations, 3rd grader Sara Elizabeth Keaton for Impromptu Speaking, and 4th grader Steven Adriatico for Readers Forum.

The bronze medalists are 1st grade Yellena Sarang Kim for Readers Forum and 3rd grade Kei Lizama for Impromptu Speaking.

The fourth place students are Kinder 5 Maria Sofia Gomez for Dramatic Interpretation, 4th grader Jacob Anthony De Leon Guerrero for Impromptu Speaking, and Sara Elizabeth Keaton for Readers Forum.

The 5th place winners are 4th grader Matthew Ernest for Humorous Interpretation and 5th grader Maria Elizabeth Bonto for Impromptu Speaking.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy would like to extend their congratulations to all the winners and thank everyone who participated, including the coaches and judges in this year's PGFC competitions.

Organized by the National Forensic League board and supported by the CNMI Public School System, Kindergarten to 5th grade students from private and public schools vied for this year's PGFC regional awards in forensic arts: reading, public speaking, and interpretations.

K-2 DIVISION

FINAL ROUND WINNERS

Impromptu Speaking
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 1st Place

Dramatic Interpretation
Tae Hee Kim, 2nd Place
Maria Sofia Gomez, 4th Place

Humorous Interpretation
Moira Grace Ernest, 1st Place
Tae Hee Kim, 2nd Place

Reader's Forum
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 1st Place
Yellena Sarang Kim, 3rd Place

FIRST ROUND AND *SEMI-FINALIST WINNERS

Impromptu Speaking A
Briston Jones, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking B
*Ethan John Quichocho, 3rd Place
*Julianna Rue Magtalas, 4th Place
Nestor Ablog Jr., 5th Place

Reader's Forum A
*Julianna Rue Magtalas, 2nd Place
*Yellena Sarang Kim, 4th Place

Reader's Forum B
*Manuel Antonio Magboo, 2nd Place
Ethan John Quichocho, 5th Place

3-5 DIVISION

FINAL ROUND WINNERS

Impromptu Speaking
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 2nd Place
Kei Lizama, 3rd Place
Jacob Anthony De Leon Guerrero, 4th Place
Maria Elizabeth Bonto, 5th Place

Reader's Forum
Steven Adriatico, 2nd Place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 4th Place

Humorous Interpretation
Matthew Ernest, 5th Place

FIRST ROUND AND *SEMI-FINALIST WINNERS

Impromptu Speaking A
*Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 1st Place
*Matthew Ernest, 2nd Place
*Jacob Anthony De Leon Guerrero, 3rd Place
*Maria Elizabeth Bonto, 4th Place
James Alexander Keaton, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking B
*Clerisse Llanah Dacumos, 1st Place
*Brandie Matsumoto, 3rd Place
*Kei Lizama, 4th Place

Reader's Forum A Semi-finalists and *Finalists
*Steven Adriatico, 1st Place
Clerisse Llanah Dacumos, 5th Place

Reader's Forum A Semi-finalists and *Finalists
*Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 4th Place

Teacher/Coach
K-5: Sheryl Prieto
First Grade: Leah Garfil
Second Grade: Miriam Dilse
Third Grade: Maria Gerecke
Fourth Grade: Melanie Hickerson
PGFC Coordinator: Esther Manzano

GCA PGFC Volunteer Judges: Marilyn Aldan, Trini Aldan, Bryan Magboo, Belen Busby, Roxie Lamar, Gladys Dacumos, Merriam Cabading, Minna Ito, Melody Woo ***(GCA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Some of the winning students of Grace Christian Academy have their picture taken after the 2015 Primary Grades Forensic Conference regional competition on Feb. 14, 2015, at Kagman Elementary School.

MBA alumnus makes it to President's Honor Roll

Reyes

Marianas Baptist Academy alumnus Kristian Siobal Reyes has made it into the President's Honor Roll of Mt. Hood Community College for fall term 2014.

The first year structural engineering student at the Oregon community college finished with an impressive 4.0 GPA while taking 17 credit hours during the fall term.

"Because of your efforts and hard work, you have met or exceeded the requirements of the President's Honor Roll. The President's Honor Roll includes those students who have achieved a 3.85 or higher grade point average for 12 or more credit hours during the quarter. You deserve the highest praise for your accomplishment," said Mt. Hood Community College president Debra A. Derr.

The 19-year-old Reyes hails from Dandan and is the son of Brian and Emily Reyes. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Commonwealth Health Center North Wing Elevator 1 Project
RFP15-GOV-038

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to repair/replace the North Wing Elevator 1 at the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package and scope of work will be available on Friday, February 20, 2015 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. A non-refundable payment of $50.00 is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package and scope of work.

A **mandatory** pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CHC Public Health conference room (first floor across the Volunteer's Gift Shop) on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 10:00 a.m. Questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative, CIP, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan or facsimile (670) 664-2408, no later than 4:00 p.m., ChST, March 11, 2015.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a project approach and a schedule of completion, addressing the scope of work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished. The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. Note, a contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications and experience on similar projects	40%
2.	Work load and resources to accomplish work in the required time frame	20%
3.	Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects	20%
4.	Cost	20%

Performance time to complete the repair/replacement of the CHC North Wing Elevator 1 project is 210 calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date. Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) proposers. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified proposer to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposer will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Payment and Performance Bonds in the amount of 100% of the total contract amount will be required by the contractor prior to award of the contract.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFP15-GOV-038-Commonwealth Health Center North Wing Elevator 1 Project. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, March 23, 2015 10:00 a.m. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, March 23, 2015, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, March 23, 2015, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 2, 2015. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Eloy S. Inos, Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement & Supply

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Hafa Adai from PIC Saipan,

With high occupancy expected at PIC Saipan until the end of February 2015, we will be limiting the number of IP&E Day Guest passes accepted at PIC to one hundred (100) per day. The IP&E promotional coupons will be honored until Feb 28, 2015. If you are planning to use your IP&E passes, please be advised they will be honored on a first come, first served basis. No reservations will be accepted.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PIC Saipan Management

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

AMENDED
NOTICE OF AUCTION
UNDER NOTE & SECURITY AGREEMENT

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to that certain Security Agreement (Chattel Mortgage) The Commonwealth Development Authority will hold an auction on used Trikes.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at CDA Conference Room, 1st Floor of the CDA Building in Oleai, Saipan on **Friday, March 6, 2015 at 2:00 pm.**;
4. The Buyer at auction will be responsible for removing the items at the day of sale;
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card* (Master Card and Visa only) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

credit card payments are charged additional 2% above sale price for processing fee.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from the CDA Office. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:00 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2015. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void and the next highest bid will be considered.

The Trikes will be available for inspection on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at the rear parking lot of CDA Building in Oleai. For Inquiries, please contact CDA at 234-6245 ext. 304, 307, 309 or 310.

Green Meadow students win big at Math Court

The small team of Green Meadow School contestants from Kindergarten 5 to 3rd grade made a huge mark in the K-3 Math Court Regular Event on Feb. 21, 2015, at Koblerville Elementary School. Congratulations, Falcons! Thanks to coaches Sony Natividad and Ana Liza Quiambao for doing a great job in preparing the students for the competition. Thank you also to volunteer proctors—Lizette Pascua, Samuel Alfred, Joyce Ong, and Celan Navarro—for supporting the Public School System in this important event.

Kinder 5 Winners:

1st Place: Louise Elesha Manansala

1st Place: Vimarie Alna Alfeche

2nd Place: Josephine Lopez

1st Grade Winner:

3rd Place - Beatrice Ryza Fabre

2nd Grades Winners:

1st Place: Arro Solana Hunter

2nd Place: Chealzka Navarro

2nd Place: Nichole Angeline Llaga

3rd Grade Winners:

3rd Place: Areeza Anda

3rd Place: Calvin Palma

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The winning students of Green Meadow School at the Feb. 21, 2015, Math Court competition are joined in this picture by their proud teachers, coaches, and school principal.

DENNIS B. CHAN

A Hyatt Regency Saipan representative interviews prospective employees during the Public School System Cooperation Training and Job Fair yesterday afternoon at the Hibiscus hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

40 companies take part in PSS coop fair

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System Cooperation Training and Job Fair was held yesterday afternoon at the Hibiscus hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, bringing together public high school students and 40 private and public companies.

The PSS cooperative education program provides classroom instruction and on-the-job training. It covers résumé drafting, financial literacy, money management, and career management, among other things.

Yesterday's fair opened up the job-site training aspect of the program. But the program doesn't just place students in jobs. They "have to [be] interview[ed] and compete for these jobs," PSS co-op coordinator Christopher Tenorio said.

The 40 companies included Herman's Bakery, Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, T Galleria, and Joeten Enterprises, among others.

"[The variety of companies] is really to give students an exposure to the different career options that are available here in the CNMI," Tenorio said.

He said the program builds the foundation of work ethic in students. "It's about developing a work ethic and developing these life skills so when they venture out of high school into the real world, they have that skill set to advance their lives."

Tenorio invites more island companies to join the program. Interested companies can contact him at 237-3025, if they want to learn more. "I am more than happy to sit down and talk about the program and how we can benefit from this partnership," he said.

"So far it's going better than I thought," said Marianas High School student Ricksy Cano of the fair. "Coming here I was extremely nervous, but a lot of the people are nicer than what we were taught. So it's a fun experience so far."

"Co-op has helped me to become more confident, it has helped me to speak to others, to be more social, because that's what you need to score a job as well," he said.

"Always smile," he added.

Anais Angeles and Marica Evangelista, MHS junior and senior students respectively, said the program prepared them for the questions asked that day.

"We practiced a lot in class so when we got to the career fair, it felt like it was easy, it was okay," Angeles said.

She said the hardest part was approaching people. "They are strangers and you go up to them."

"It takes a lot of courage," added Evangelista. "You're not in the classroom anymore, you're not with your classmates anymore, you are actually facing the manager for that company so it was really challenging."

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Monday, March 2, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[i]
III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
   a. Management of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. Ratification of Table Movement Requests
   b. Licensing Matters
      1) Casino Key Employee License Applications
      2) Casino Employee License Applications
      3) Hotel Registrations
      4) Casino Service Industry License Applications
V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[ii]
VI. **MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Robert Tenorio Torres — F0197
PO Box 503758
Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 670-234-7859
Fax: 670-234-5749
Email: rttlaw@pticom.com

Attorney for Petitioner Jessica M Kisa

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JESUS LIZAMA KISA, Deceased.	) Civil Action) No. 15-005)) INITIAL HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTRIX and NOTICE TO CREDITORS) Date: March 17, 2015) Time: 1:30 pm) Judge: Hon. David A. Wiseman

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JESUS LIZAMA KISA OR HIS ESTATE:

The hearing on the Petition for Probate of Will and Appointment of Executor in the above-styled matter has been set for March 17, 2015, at 1:30pm, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma Hustisia/limwaal Aweewe/House of Justice, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against Jesus Lizama Kisa or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of this publication. If the claim is not presented or filed within that time frame, the claim will be forever barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**.

Dated January 16, 2015.

/s/ Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

Name: Marilyn Orilly
Telephone: 322-4896

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: **Alina G. Esakova** Minor Child By: **Marilyn P. Orilly** Petitioner	) FCG GU) CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0083) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 19, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 18th day of February 2015.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340, SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN Plaintiff, v. RUDOLF W. LEIS and HELGA G.G. LEIS, Defendants.	) CIVIL ACTION) No. 14-0148) **NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 20, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right and interests of Defendants in and to the following real property, located in Laolao, Saipan:

Lot 012 J 17, (part of Lot 012 J 06; part of original Tract 22723-A, H 61), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 012 J 01, the original of which was recorded February 3, 1994 as Document No. 94-341 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

1. Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on **Thursday, March 26, 2015**, at the hour of 11:00 a.m. at the entrance to the **Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D'Torres Bldg, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI**. Registration for the auction sale will begin at 10:45 a.m.

2. Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 26th day of February, 2015.

/s/ MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer
Tel: (670) 235-8060
Fax: (670) 235-8070
E-mail: michbrel@hotmail.com

NMIS students win gold in choral speaking

Northern Marianas International School students again showed their mastery and prowess at the 2015 Primary Grade Forensic Competition held on Feb. 14, 2015, in Oleai Elementary School.

NMIS grabbed first place in Choral Speaking in the K-2 Division. The gold medalists are Euanne Kyra Claveria, Kimberly Villegas, Rafael Gozon, Simon Tang, and Jay Francis Dominic Pineda.

Silver medals were awarded to Vladimir Radge Palma for Humorous Interpretation, and Miyuki Takayama and Matson Betty for Duo Interpretation.

Bronze medals went to Betty Matson, Nhicole Valiente, Miyuki Takayama, and Juliana Vergara for the Choral Speaking 3-5 Division.

PGFC coordinator and coach Rosalie Habijan wishes to thank the students and parents who supported the PGFC event throughout the regional competition. "Hats off to the coaches and students who qualified in the regional event, especially to those who got in the finals," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas International School students have their picture taken with their teachers and school officials after participating in the 2015 Primary Grade Forensic Competition on Feb. 14, 2015, at Oleai Elementary School.

1st Place, Choral Speaking K-2 Division (Final)
Claveria, Evanne
Pineda, Jay Francis Dominic
Villegas, Kimberly
Gozon, Rafael
Tang, Simon

2nd Place, Humorous Interpretation 3-5 Division (Final)
Vladimir Radge Palma

2nd Place, Duo 3-5 Division (Final)
Miyuki Takayama
Betty Matson

3rd Place, Choral Speaking 3-5 Division (Final)
Betty Matson
Nhicole Valiente
Juliana Vergara
Miyuki Takayama

4th Place, Dramatic Interpretation 3-5 Division (Final)
Edgardo Severin Palma Jr.

4th Place, Duo 3-5 Division (Final)
Vladimir Radge Palma
Edgardo Severin Palma Jr.

5th Place, Choral Speaking K-2 Division (Final)
Patricia Lugtu
Ashley Theresse Perez
Annieskha Arreza

5th Place, Impromptu K-2 Division (Final)
Jay Francis Dominic Pineda

Choral Speaking K-2 Division Finalists:
Lilia Angelica Brien
Keylie Shian Claveria
Angelina Maria Camacho
Alaysha Skye Fejeran
Hyacinth Gail Lobo
Razielle Sobremisana

5th Place Choral Speaking K-2 Division (Final)
Lugtu, Patricia
Perez, Ashley
Arreza, Annieskha

5th Place Impromptu K-2 Division (Final)
Pineda, Jay Francis Dominic

2nd Place Impromptu K-2 Division Semi-Final
Pineda, Jay Francis Dominic

2nd Place Humorous Interpretation 3-5 Division (Final)
Palma, Vladimir Radge

4th Place Dramatic Interpretation 3 - 5 Division (Final)
Palma, Edgardo Severin

2nd Place Duo 3-5 Division (Final)
Takayama, Miyuki
Matson, Betty

4th Place DUO 3-5 Division (Final)
Palma, Vladimir Radge
Palma, Edgardo Severin

3rd Place Choral Speaking 3-5 Division (Final)
Matson, Betty
Valiente, Nhicole
Takayama, Miyuki
Vergara, Julianna

1st Place Duo 3-5 Division Semifinal
Takayama, Miyuki
Matson, Betty

4th Place Duo 3-5 Division Semifinal
Palma, Vladimir Radge
Palma, Edgardo Severin

5th Place Choral Speaking K-2 Division (Final)
Lugtu, Patricia
Perez, Ashley
Arreza, Annieskha

5th Place Impromptu K-2 Division (Final)
Pineda, Jay Francis Dominic

2nd Place Impromptu K-2 Division Semi-Final
Pineda, Jay Francis Dominic

2nd Place Humorous Interpretation 3-5 Division (Final)
Palma, Vladimir Radge

4th Place Dramatic Interpretation 3 - 5 Division (Final)
Palma, Edgardo Severin

2nd Place Duo 3-5 Division (Final)
Takayama, Miyuki
Matson, Betty

4th Place DUO 3-5 Division (Final)
Palma, Vladimir Radge
Palma, Edgardo Severin

3rd Place Choral Speaking 3-5 Division (Final)
Matson, Betty
Valiente, Nhicole
Takayama, Miyuki
Vergara, Julianna

1st Place Duo 3-5 Division Semifinal
Takayama, Miyuki
Matson, Betty

4th Place Duo 3-5 Division Semifinal
Palma, Vladimir Radge
Palma, Edgardo Severin

5th Place Choral Speaking K-2 Division (Final)
Lugtu, Patricia
Perez, Ashley
Arreza, Annieskha

5th Place Impromptu K-2 Division (Final)
Pineda, Jay Francis Dominic

2nd Place Impromptu K-2 Division Semi-Final
Pineda, Jay Francis Dominic

2nd Place Humorous Interpretation 3-5 Division (Final)
Palma, Vladimir Radge

4th Place Dramatic Interpretation 3 - 5 Division (Final)
Palma, Edgardo Severin

2nd Place Duo 3-5 Division (Final)
Takayama, Miyuki
Matson, Betty

4th Place DUO 3-5 Division (Final)
Palma, Vladimir Radge
Palma, Edgardo Severin

3rd Place Choral Speaking 3-5 Division (Final)
Matson, Betty
Valiente, Nhicole
Takayama, Miyuki
Vergara, Julianna

1st Place Duo 3-5 Division Semifinal
Takayama, Miyuki
Matson, Betty

4th Place Duo 3-5 Division Semifinal
Palma, Vladimir Radge
Palma, Edgardo Severin

SEMI-FINALS RESULTS:

1st Place Duo 3-5 Division
Betty Matson &
Miyuki Takayama

2nd Place Impromptu K-2 Division
Jay Francis Dominic Pineda

4th Place Duo 3-5 Division
Vladmir Radge Pama &
Edgardo Severin Palma Jr.

PGFC coaches: Darlene Sobremisana, Levi Sobremisana, Roy Dolon, Criselda Aldan, Rosalie Habijan

The administration, faculty, staff, and parents of NMIS would like to extend their congratulations to all the winners and thank everyone who participated, including the coaches and judges in this year's PGFC competitions. ***(PR)***

AMENDED REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTSEWER SYSTEM PROJECT
Project No. CPA-TA-001-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Tinian International Airport Sewer System Project, No. CPA-TA-001-15, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes constructability review and overall construction management services. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, February 20, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. Construction management experience related to CPA airport related projects;
3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly and level of experience with airport related projects;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for airport projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable and a valid CNMI business license.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, MARCH 2, 2015.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 10, 2015

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-15

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) CANCELLATION

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) has canceled the following Invitation for Bids (IFB): **CPA-IFB-003-15, including any amendments**, effective immediately. The IFB will be re-issued at a later date.

The reason for the cancellation is to allow CPA to gather sufficient documentation to be able to accurately determine the amount of trash to be collected and what type of equipment would be most beneficial in handling this trash.

Bidders who have already submitted bids will have their bids returned unopened or they can pick up their bid packages at Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any bid submitted will not be opened and no contract will be awarded under this current IFB.

A new, revised IFB will be issued once CPA has collected the relevant data. All bidders who received a bid set for this IFB will be notified. Additionally, a notice informing the public of the revised IFB will be issued.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Archaeological Recovery under Permit Application Number SMS-2015-X-006. The permit application was submitted by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC to conduct an archaeological recovery of cultural resources including clearing of existing vegetation, excavation, and erection of perimeter fence on the following lots- TD 1440, TR 21049, 144 D 01R/W and 104 D 04, in Garapan between Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center and Fiesta Resort.

The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 9th, 2015, 6:00 PM at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.

Written comments may also be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M, Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Archaeological Recovery in Garapan.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

63 PSS seniors obtain hospitality, tourism certificates

DENNIS B. CHAN

Kagman High School students pose for a photo after graduating from the Latte Training Academy.

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Latte Training Academy graduated 63 young adults poised to enter the CNMI's vital tourism industry on Tuesday night at the Pacific Islands Club.

The 63 graduates are seniors from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Kagman High School. They earned their certification from the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute's START program, which is recognized in hospitality and tourism industries the world over.

Island Training Solutions president Jim Arenovski said these students "went above and beyond their peers" by taking the course.

He said the training taught the students good attitude and enthusiasm, which is "the gold standard for the tourist industry," he said.

With the CNMI's growing human resource needs, he said the academy is firm in its belief that the time of this program had come.

"We laughed. We cried. We had fun and worked hard," SSHS instructor Kanae Quinn told her students. "I'm proud of everyone in the class because we had grit."

Students were taught in class and also shadowed positions in the hotel industry—from cooks, to office or rooms work, among others.

Fiesta Resort and Spa, Laolao Bay Resort, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan World Resort, Mariana Resort and Spa, and Hyatt Regency Saipan took part in the program.

Arenovski said they are hoping to have more hotels on board for their next class.

Saipan Southern High School students smile for the camera.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Latte Training Academy students from Marianas High School line up for a photo.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Business

Calling for cooperation, Obama engages in confrontation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Amid appeals for bipartisanship, President Barack Obama in just three days has provoked Republicans on issues as disparate as immigration, Wall Street and the Keystone XL pipeline—a combative mix of defense and offense that underscores Washington's political realignment.

Sensing a Republican retreat, Obama was headlining a Miami town hall on Wednesday, enlisting his Latino base of support to increase pressure on GOP lawmakers who want to tie spending on the Homeland Security Department to repeal of his immigration executive actions.

On Tuesday, he vetoed GOP legislation that would have forced construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline. And on Monday he proposed tougher rules on financial brokers who help manage retirement accounts, over Wall Street objections.

Three days, three hardball plays.

Such aggressive activism delights his supporters but irritates the Republicans who now control both chambers of Congress.

It's not as if Republicans didn't see it coming. But it unfolds as Obama insists he is willing to find common ground with GOP leaders on such issues as trade and fixes to the criminal justice system.

Indeed, Obama on Tuesday summoned a bipartisan group of lawmakers to the White House for a private meeting on how to address modernizing juvenile justice, sentencing and incarceration policies. And on Thursday, Obama planned to draw attention to the economic benefits of trade and exports in a series of interviews at the White House.

"Let's try to focus on some of things that we have in common and deliver real results," he told governors of both parties who attended a White House luncheon Monday.

But can the confrontational Obama exist alongside Obama the accommodator?

Among those attending the criminal justice session at the White House were Republicans who have been among the most vocal critics of Obama on other issues, such as Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, a potential presidential candidate, Sen. Mike Lee of Utah and Reps. Jason Chaffetz of Utah and Trey Gowdy of South Carolina.

The White House said Obama consulted with the lawmakers on "ways to build public support for a comprehensive, smart reform package based on many of the ideas they are now championing in legislation."

On trade, Obama is seeking legislation that will give him the authority to negotiate international trade deals that Congress can only approve or reject but not amend, a step a majority of Democrats oppose.

"I think we're in synch with the administration," said Republican House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, who is leading the pro-trade drive in the House.

Such efforts at bipartisanship occur against a steady effort by Republicans to undo or roll back Obama's actions on immigration, health care and financial regulation. Obama has promised to use his veto to reject those, as he did the Keystone bill.

TJ Maxx, Marshalls to follow Wal-Mart in raising pay

NEW YORK (AP)—The owner of T.J. Maxx, Marshalls and HomeGoods stores became the latest retailer to boost pay for its U.S. workers, putting pressure on other chains to do the same.

TJX Cos. said Wednesday that it will increase pay for its U.S. workers to at least $9 an hour starting in June. The announcement came a week after Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said it would increase starting wages for its U.S. employees to at least $9 per hour by April and by at least $10 by Feb. 2016. Home furnishings retailer IKEA and Gap clothing chain also have raised pay recently.

John Challenger, CEO of global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc., said the moves could create a domino effect in which other companies follow suit in order to compete for top talent.

"Other retailers may have no other choice but to follow," he said. "The pool of available labor is starting to shrink and it will take more than a store discount to attract the best of available candidates."

The moves by the major retailers to raise wages come at a pivotal time when the plight of hourly workers has made national headlines.

Protests by fast food workers asking for higher pay have increased. Labor-backed groups have taken aim at Wal-Mart, the nation's largest private employer with 1.3 million workers, to start entry wages at $15 per hour. And President Obama is endorsing a bill in Congress that includes a proposed increase in the federal minimum wage from $7.25 to $10.10 an hour, while several states are considering raising their minimum wages.

At the same time, there's much national debate about what is a "living wage," or enough money for a worker to make in order to make ends meet. Most retail workers already make more than the federal minimum wage but not much more. In fact, more than half of retail workers make $10 or less, according to David Cooper of The Economic Policy Institute.

According to the most recent government data, the average that hourly retail workers in a non-supervisory role earn is $14.65, but that includes people who work at auto dealers and other outlets that pay more than traditional retailers. The average hourly pay is $9.93 for cashiers and low-level retail sales staff, according to Hay Group's survey of 140 retailers with annual sales of $500 million.

Greek leader faces criticism on austerity concessions

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's prime minister held a marathon meeting with his party's lawmakers Wednesday, briefing them on pledges made to European creditors to win a four-month extension of the country's bailout amid simmering party discontenta over what some see as a capitulation.

The meeting, which was held behind closed doors, lasted more than 11 hours.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, elected last month on the promise to repeal bailout austerity measures, including spending cuts and tax hikes, has been at pains to persuade hardliners in his radical left Syriza party that Greece succeeded in its European negotiations.

Greece won its extension Tuesday by pledging a series of policy measures, including adherence to certain reforms and highlighting its will to crack down on corruption and tax evasion. It also promised not roll back privatizations as it had promised before being elected on Jan. 25 and not take any unilateral action without consulting with Greece's creditors.

But some party members and ministers have insisted election promises should be kept.

Energy and Environment Minister Panagiotis Lafazanis, a party hardliner, has repeated he will not go ahead with privatizations, which were part of initial requirements for the 240 billion euro (currently $272 billion) bailout.

Lafazanis told the daily Ethnos newspaper that the privatization of the power grid and of the country's power utility would be halted as final binding bids had not yet been submitted.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ASSISTANT FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel, plus five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be able to solve guest complaints and work in a high-pressured environment. Assists with the Front Office operations, including a Call Center, Concierge, Tour Desk and Guest Service operations. Must have the ability to train employees to ensure standards of the hotel are met. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) BAKER
Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience working in a similar role at a hotel, plus one (1) year supervisor experience required. Any combination of education and related work experience will be considered. High school diploma, or its equivalent, is required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUTCHER
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience as a butcher. Must be able to cook, marinate, roast and process all meat, fish and poultry products. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(3) CHEF DE CUISINE
Minimum of three (3) years of relevant working experience in a familiar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food preparation, food safety standards and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(4) CHEF DE PARTIE
Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(12) COOK
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) ELECTRICIAN
Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(1) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience, preferably in a large hotel. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(3) LEAD COOK
Minimum of three (3) years experience as a cook. At least one (1) year supervisory experience preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) POWERHOUSE SUPERVISOR
Minimum three (3) years experience in diesel power generator operations and one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must be a certified Water Treatment operator Class 2 and Water Distribution Class 1. Must be certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) PUBLIC AREA ATTENDANT
Minimum six (6) months of work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) RESERVATION SUPERVISOR
Minimum of four (4) years experience working in Front Desk or Reservations for a hotel, plus have at least Two (2) years of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Must be able to use hotel PMS (Micros Opera) and Microsoft Excel. Must be able to understand, speak, read, write English and Korean. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) TEPPANYAKI COOK
Minimum of five (5) years of related work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, March 19th, 2015.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Position: Cook (2)
Position Summary: To prepare and cook food for a small restaurant, control wastage, clean galley and kitchen appliances and work areas, to ensure cleanliness and a functional operation and to be able to prepare and cook food promptly, in presentable and delectable way.

Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience as cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized and self-discipline. Must be able to communicate in English and Chinese language.

Position: Waitress (2)

Position Summary: To take orders and serve food and beverages to patrons on the Gaming floor and restaurant in the Club. Maintain the Club presenting a clean and presentable appearance.

Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as waitress in a restaurant or hotel. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Preferably Chinese Speaking. Must have good organizational skills, self-discipline and problem solving skills.

Position: Bartender (2)

Position Summary: Require an energetic, professional staff member who has an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Focused on professionalism and providing a superior customer experience. The ideal candidate must possess in depth knowledge about Wines, Spirits, Cocktails and other drink ingredients.

Position Requirement: College Graduate Degree or equivalent. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English. A minimum of 2 years' experience working within a 4* / 5* star establishment as a Bartender.

Position: Electronic Gaming Machine Technician (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for the efficient running of all electronic gaming machines, servers and IT systems. Repair, service and maintain electronic gaming machines in order to minimize down time of machines which results in loss of revenue. Organize the activities of maintenance and technician contractors.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED, technical school plus a minimum of 3 years work experience as a slots or e-gaming machine technician in a casino or equivalent or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training in e-gaming machines repair, service, and maintenance skills can be demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Knowledge of various types of electronic gaming equipment used on casino floor and demonstrate the skills and ability to diagnose problems, take corrective action necessary, and ensure device is operational as quickly and efficiently as practical.

Position: Guest Service Manager (1)
Position Summary: To ensure that excellence in service is provided to Club's guests through Guest Services and that appropriate complimentary privileges are accorded Junkets and Premium Players and that all their needs and requirements are attended to.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED, technical school plus a minimum of 3 years work experience in a casino or equivalent or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training and at least minimum experience in Supervisory Position. Able to communicate clearly and possess a good command of verbal and written English and Mandarin Chinese. Excellent Public Speaking and communication skills. Computer literacy. Word Processing skills. Effective negotiating skills. Effective Problem solving skills.

Please send detailed resume by email to: hr@clubcsaipan.com. Deadline for submission of completed applications is on March 2, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Nation

AP: Trayvon Martin's mother says killer got away with murder

MIAMI (AP)—The mother of Trayvon Martin says she's disappointed that federal prosecutors decided not to charge a neighborhood watch volunteer with a hate crime for killing her son three years ago.

Speaking with The Associated Press on Wednesday before the third anniversary of her 17-year-old son's death, Sybrina Fulton says she still believes George Zimmerman got away with murder.

"He took a life, carelessly and recklessly, and he shouldn't deserve to have his entire life walking around on the street free. I just believe that he should be held accountable for what he's done," Fulton said.

Zimmerman claimed he shot the unarmed teenager in self-defense after confronting Martin while volunteering for his neighborhood watch group. A jury acquitted him of second-degree murder the next year.

The case sparked a national conversation about race, bias and crime in part because Zimmerman, who identifies himself as Hispanic, was not immediately arrested after shooting Martin, who is black.

The U.S. Justice Department announced Tuesday that it found insufficient evidence to establish that Zimmerman willfully deprived Martin of his civil rights or killed him because of his race.

"The Justice Department is the top of the line here," Fulton said. "But what they found just wasn't enough."

Zimmerman, for his part, is relieved the case is closed, according to his attorney, Don West.

"This cloud he was under has been lifted," West told the AP, adding that he finds it misleading to suggest that charges weren't filed only because the legal standard for federal hate crime is so tough to meet.

"There simply was never any compelling evidence that this was a federal hate crime. Race played no role in it whatsoever," West said.

The February 2012 confrontation began after Zimmerman spotted Martin walking through the neighborhood, returning to his father's home after buying candy and a soft drink at a convenience store.

Zimmerman called 911 to report a suspicious person, and got out of his car to follow Martin despite being warned by the dispatcher not to. Zimmerman did not testify at his trial, but he told investigators he feared for his life as Martin straddled him and punched him during the ensuing fight.

Wearing a T-shirt bearing a black-and-white image of her son in a hoodie, Fulton said she still longs for Zimmerman to be held responsible.

George Zimmerman timeline
The Department of Justice declined to pursue hate crime charges against George Zimmerman for the 2012 shooting of Trayvon Martin that sparked a national debate.
Feb. 26, 2012: While on neighborhood watch, Zimmerman shoots Trayvon Martin. Zimmerman claims self-defense and is not arrested.
July 13, 2013: Zimmerman is found not guilty for the shooting.
Nov. 18, 2013: Zimmerman is arrested for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend.
Jan. 10: Zimmerman is arrested for allegedly throwing a wine bottle at his girlfriend.
Jan. 30: Charges for the wine bottle incident are dropped because the victim wouldn't cooperate with prosecutors
2012
2013
2014
April 11, 2012: Zimmerman is charged with second-degree murder.
Sept. 9, 2013: Zimmerman's estranged wife calls 911 to report that Zimmerman threatened her and her father with a gun. She did not press charges.
Dec. 11, 2013: Charges are dropped for the Nov. 18 assault.
Feb. 24, 2015: The Justice Department ends its civil rights probe of the 2012 shooting.
Source: Chicago Tribune reporting, AP
Graphic: Tribune News Service

3 in NY, Florida accused of plot to help Islamic State group

NEW YORK (AP)—Three men were arrested Wednesday on charges of plotting to help the Islamic State group wage war against the United States, and federal officials said one of them spoke of shooting President Barack Obama or planting a bomb on Coney Island.

Akhror Saidakhmetov was arrested at Kennedy Airport, where he was attempting to board a flight to Istanbul on his way to Syria, authorities said. Abdurasul Hasanovich Juraboev had a ticket to travel to Istanbul next month and was arrested in Brooklyn, federal prosecutors said. The two were held without bail after a brief court appearance.

A third defendant, Abror Habibov, is accused of helping fund Saidakhmetov's efforts to join the Islamic State group after Saidakhmetov's mother took away his passport to try to prevent him from traveling. Habibov was ordered held without bail in Florida.

The three, who are from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, are charged with attempt and conspiracy to provide material support to a terrorist organization. If convicted, each could face a maximum of 15 years in prison.

"This is real," New York Police Department Commissioner William Bratton said. "This is the concern about the lone wolf, inspired to act without ever going to the Mideast."

The Department of Justice has charged roughly 20 people in the past year with planning to travel to the Middle East to fight alongside militants like the Islamic State group, which controls parts of Syria and Iraq. Federal officials have been concerned about Americans going overseas to train with these groups and returning with plots to carry out attacks at home.

Saidakhmetov is a Brooklyn resident and citizen of Kazakhstan. Juraboev is a Brooklyn resident from Uzbekistan. Habibov is also from Uzbekistan and had been in the U.S. legally, but his visa had expired. He was appointed a public defender on Wednesday.

Federal prosecutors say Juraboev, 24, first came to the attention of law enforcement in August, when he posted on an Uzbek-language website that propagates the Islamic State ideology.

"Greetings! We too want to pledge our allegiance and commit ourselves while not present there," he wrote, according to federal authorities. "Is it possible to commit ourselves as dedicated martyrs anyway while here?

"What I'm saying is, to shoot Obama and then get shot ourselves, will it do? That will strike fear in the hearts of infidels."

Officials said they believed he planned to travel from Turkey to Syria to join the terror group. Prosecutors say Saidakhmetov, 19, also threatened an attack in the U.S. if he was unable to join the Islamic State. Juraboev's plans included attacks against Obama or planting a bomb on Coney Island, officials said.

Experts: Insanity case as in 'American Sniper' hard to win

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP)—The former Marine convicted of killing "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle and another man was hospitalized multiple times for psychiatric treatment and was prescribed medication to treat schizophrenia. He spoke of pig-human hybrids and the apocalypse and was described by Kyle himself as "straight-up nuts."

But jurors found the insanity defense for Eddie Ray Routh failed to meet the legal threshold: a mental illness so severe he didn't know right from wrong. His case illustrates the difficulty of succeeding with such a defense at a time when a Colorado court is preparing to hear similar arguments in the trial over a movie theater shooting in which 12 people were killed.

"The insanity defense is very rare, and it's even rarer that a defendant wins it," said George Dix, a law professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

He said when a brutal crime is committed it's difficult to convince a jury the person accused doesn't "deserve the condemnation that comes from a finding of guilty." He added, "And here, we've got him causing the death of an American hero."

Kyle, a former Navy SEAL sniper, volunteered with veterans facing mental health problems after he left the military. A blockbuster film based on his memoir about his four tours in Iraq contributed to intense interest in the case.

Legal experts say a defense attorney's task to convince a jury that a client is legally insane is even more difficult in cases like that of Routh, who confessed to killing the men, apologized to the family and fled from police.

"If someone is admitting that they committed the murder, it's a pretty tough burden to get a jury to say, `Let's excuse him anyway,'" said Dallas defense attorney Michael Snipes.

Kyle and his friend, Chad Littlefield, were killed after taking Routh to a shooting range on Feb. 2, 2013. Routh's mother had asked Kyle if he could help her son, who she said had suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder after serving in Iraq and Haiti.

But the focus of the trial was not PTSD. Routh's attorneys said he suffered from schizophrenia and was having a psychotic episode at the time of the shootings, and noted that Kyle described Routh as "straight-up nuts" in a text message to Littlefield as they drove to the range.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office,
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
February 27, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. PIC	01/30/2015 SMS-91-X-25 (2014 Amend)	Kids Club Facility	San Antonio	Amendment	Approved (02/20/2015)*
2. CUC	11/07/2015 SMS-2014-X-054	Exploratory Geo-Thermal Well	Gualo Rai	Major Siting	Approved (01/21/2015)*
3. Asia Marine Sports	02/12/2015 SLRm-2015-X-009	Scuba Diving Activities	Saipan	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (02/19/2015)*
4. Saipan International Real Estate Developer Corp, Ltd.	02/24/2015 SMS-2015-X-010	Ocean Vista Resort	Capitol Hill	Major Siting	Under Review

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

ACROSS THE NATION

Spacewalking astronaut safe after water leaks into helmet

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A spacewalking astronaut ended up with unwanted water in his helmet Wednesday after breezing through a cable and lube job outside the International Space Station. The leak was scarily reminiscent of a near-drowning outside the orbiting complex nearly two years ago. This time, the amount of water was relatively small—essentially a big blob of water floating inside Terry Virts' helmet. In the summer of 2013, another spacewalking astronaut's helmet actually flooded. He barely made it back inside. Virts was never in any danger, Mission Control stressed, and he never reported any water during his 6 1/2 hours outside.

Order forcing judges to move to Guantanamo halts 9/11 case

MIAMI (AP)—A military judge ordered an immediate halt Wednesday to proceedings in the Sept. 11 terrorism case because of a new Defense Department rule that requires him to relocate to the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The judge, Army Col. James Pohl, has been based in the United States, periodically traveling to Guantanamo to preside over the military commission proceedings against five prisoners charged with planning and supporting the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack. In December, Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work directed military commission judges to move to Guantanamo at the request of a Pentagon legal official who wanted to speed up the litigation in the three active cases.

Asia

Afghan avalanches kill at least 124

PANJSHIR VALLEY, Afghanistan (AP)—Avalanches caused by a heavy winter snow killed at least 124 people in northeastern Afghanistan, an emergency official said Wednesday, as rescuers clawed through debris with their hands to save those buried beneath.

The avalanches buried homes across four northeast provinces, killing those beneath, said Mohammad Aslam Syas, the deputy director of the Afghanistan Natural Disaster Management Authority. The province worst hit appeared to be Panjshir province, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of the capital, Kabul, where the avalanches destroyed or damaged around 100 homes, Syas said.

The acting governor of Panjshir, Abdul Rahman Kabiri, said rescuers used their bare hands and shovels in an effort to reach survivors. Rescue teams had been dispatched to the affected areas and casualties were expected to rise, Syas said.

The heavy snowstorms, which began early Tuesday, hampered rescue efforts. Snow fall from the storm was nearly

Tribune News Service
Source: AP

1-meter (3-feet) deep in places and fallen trees blocked roads in the Panjshir Valley.

Gen. Abdul Aziz Ghirat, the provincial police chief of Panjshir, said the death toll from the avalanches was expected to rise when rescue attempts resumed at sunrise Thursday.

Avalanches in the valley's Dara district affected up to 600 families, according to people trying to reach the area to assist in rescue efforts.

"People there have told me that two of my relatives have been killed and eight others are still under the snow," said an Afghan who goes by the single name Sharafudin. "My son and I are trying to get through to see if we can help find their bodies. But it will take us at least three or four hours to get there because of the snow and the road is very narrow, so we have to walk, the car can't get through."

He spoke at the mouth of the valley, where traffic moved at a crawl.

"We've had no help yet from the authorities, no medicines, no machinery to open the roads so we can get to the buried houses," Sharafudin said.

Another man stuck on the highway trying to reach Dara told The Associated Press that many bodies remained in houses buried beneath feet of snow.

"We are so concerned about our relatives who are just stuck there," said the man named Abu Muslim.

Large parts of Afghanistan have been covered in snow as a major storm interrupted an otherwise mild and dry winter.

Authorities in Parwan province closed the strategic Salang Tunnel, which links the north and south of the country, over avalanche fears. Power cables traversing the tunnel have been damaged, cutting power to much of Kabul since earlier this week.

Bangladesh court issues arrest warrant for former leader Zia

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A court in Bangladesh issued an arrest warrant Wednesday for former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia after she failed to appear in court for the fourth time in two corruption cases against her.

Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadder issued the warrant in the capital, Dhaka, after he refused a bail plea by the defense, which said Zia needed more time because she was sick and concerned about her security because of political unrest.

It was not clear immediately whether Zia would soon be arrested. The court order will go to the police station where the cases were registered.

"The next measures will be taken by authorities in line with law," said state counsel Mosharraf Hossain Kajol.

The charges against Zia involve an alleged illegal fund used to buy land for a charity named after her late husband, former President Ziaur Rahman.

Zia's lawyers have rejected allegations that she illegally collected more than $1 million in donations for the charity, and say the charges are politically motivated, which authorities deny.

Zia was indicted in the cases early last year, but chaos broke out when she arrived at court on Dec. 24, with her supporters attacking police officers and clashing with ruling party activists. Authorities said the violence was an attempt was to derail the trial process, but Zia's supporters say ruling party activists started the attacks.

After that, Zia skipped four court hearings, including Wednesday, citing security concerns and sickness.

"Today, we appealed to the court for more time for her appearance as she is sick. But the court rejected that and issued the arrest warrant," defense lawyer Sanaullah Mia told reporters after the decision.

Bangladeshi law requires Zia to appear in court to seek bail to avoid arrest.

Zia's eldest son, Tarique Rahman, the heir apparent to take over her Bangladesh Nationalist Party in a deeply rooted political dynasty, was also indicted in the cases.

Philippine troops attack 300 Abu Sayyaf militants, 7 killed

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops, backed by artillery fire and assault helicopters, battled about 300 Abu Sayyaf rebels in fighting Wednesday that left two soldiers and five militants dead in the country's restive south, officials said.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc said 16 other soldiers were wounded in the daylong fighting in a jungle near Patikul town in Sulu province where the large number of Abu Sayyaf gunmen had gathered.

At least 16 militants were wounded, Cabunoc said, citing army reports.

The Abu Sayyaf gunmen, led by commander Hatib Sawadjaan, have been blamed for several ransom kidnappings, including of two German tourists who were freed in October after six months of jungle captivity, reportedly in exchange for 250 million pesos ($5.6 million).

Some of the militants who clashed with government troops Wednesday were from nearby Basilan island, and it was not clear why they had joined up with Sawadjaan's forces in the poor, predominantly Muslim province of Sulu. The militants later split into smaller groups as they withdrew and were being pursued by army troops and marines, the military said.

The Abu Sayyaf, a loose grouping of about 400 mostly poor rural fighters, has turned to kidnappings for ransom, extortion and other crimes to survive years of battle setbacks dealt by U.S. military-backed Philippine offensives.

The Sulu-based gunmen are still holding a Dutch birdwatcher who was kidnapped more than two years ago, and a Malaysian police officer who was abducted last year in Malaysia's Sabah state.

The extremist group has had links to the al-Qaida network and is on a U.S. list of terrorist organizations for deadly bombings, kidnappings and beheadings.

World

Abducted Syrian Christians moved to militant stronghold

BEIRUT (AP)—Islamic State militants have moved a large group of Christians they abducted to one of their strongholds as fighting raged on Wednesday between the extremists and Kurdish and Christian militiamen for control of a chain of villages along a strategic river in northeastern Syria, activists and state-run media said.

The Khabur River in Hassakeh province, which borders Turkey and Iraq, has become the latest battleground in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria. It is predominantly Kurdish but also has populations of Arabs and predominantly Christian Assyrians and Armenians.

In pre-dawn attacks, the IS on Monday attacked communities nestled along the river, seizing at least 70 people, including many women and children. Thousands of others fled to safer areas.

The fate of those kidnapped, almost all of them Assyrian Christians, remained unclear Wednesday, two days after they were seized. Relatives of the group searched frantically for word on the fate of the loved ones, but none came.

"It's a tragedy ... It is true what they say: history repeats itself," said Younan Talia, a high ranking official with the Assyrian Democratic Organization who spoke to The Associated Press from Hassakeh.

He was referring to the 1933 massacre by Iraqi government forces of Assyrians in Simele, a town in northern Iraq, after which the community fled to the Khabur region, and massacres against Armenian and Assyrian Christians under the Ottoman empire.

State-run SANA news agency and the Assyrian Network for Human Rights in Syria said the hostages have been moved to the Islamic State-controlled city of Shaddadeh, south of the city of Hassakeh. The United States and a coalition of regional partners are conducting a campaign of airstrikes against the group, and have on occasion struck Shaddadeh, a predominantly Arab town.

"In addition to its strategy of terrifying people, taking hostages to use as human shields to protect from coalition airstrikes is another of its goals," said Osama Edward, director of the Stockholm-based Assyrian Network for Human Rights in Syria.

Ukrainian POWs dig out bodies of killed comrades

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian POWs in the separatist stronghold of Donetsk began a task Wednesday that strained their hearts as well as their muscles: digging through the rubble to retrieve the bodies of fellow soldiers killed last month in the bitter battle for the city's airport.

Associated Press journalists saw at least four bodies being carried out of the once-glittering, now-obliterated Donetsk airport terminal. A Ukrainian official said seven in all were retrieved. Rebel representatives said many more soldiers were still buried under the collapsed building, but provided no figures.

One captive soldier saw two friends being pulled out of the rubble, as the facility's twisted steel beams and smashed cement walls were being sawn into pieces and towed away.

"I recognized them from their clothing. They were my friends," said the man, a member of the Ukrainian army's 90th brigade who identified himself only as Sasha.

The bodies themselves were contorted by rigor mortis after being left outside for weeks in the frigid winter. Work was briefly interrupted by the sounds of gunfire in the distance, then resumed.

It was not clear whether the Ukrainian soldiers were forced into performing the recovery work or volunteered, but rebels have previously forced POWs to perform hard labor. The Ukrainian captives were assisted by rescue workers employed by the separatists.

"These guys were fighting here. I don't know what for. They were following the orders of their president, and they respected that order," said rebel commander Mikhail Tolstykh, known widely by nom de guerre Givi. "We all are military men here and we have to respect our enemy."

Russian-backed separatists and Ukrainian troops had battled regularly over Donetsk's airport since May, when government forces decisively rebuffed separatist attempts to take the showcase terminal built to help Ukraine host the 2012 Euro soccer championships. Fighting over the terminal surged in mid-January, swiftly unraveling a month-long truce.

Buckling under a barrage of artillery and small arms attacks, Ukrainian forces conceded Jan. 22 that they had lost much of the terminal.

Netanyahu: World powers 'have given up' in Iran nuke talks

JERUSALEM (AP)—In his sharpest criticism yet, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday that world powers "have given up" on stopping Iran from developing nuclear weapons in ongoing negotiations.

Netanyahu's comments, at a meeting of his Likud Party outside of Jerusalem, come as he plans to address the U.S. Congress on the nuclear negotiations.

The West fears Iran could build an atomic bomb with its nuclear program. Iran says its program is for peaceful purposes. The Islamic Republic is now negotiating a final deal with the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany, with hopes of on a preliminary deal in March and a follow-up pact in June.

Netanyahu, as well as many in Israel, view a nuclear-armed Iran as a threat to its very existence, citing Tehran's repeated calls for Israel's destruction and its support for groups like Hezbollah.

In his remarks, Netanyahu said that the greatest challenge Israel faces is "the threat of Iran arming itself with nuclear weapons with a declared goal of annihilating us."

"From the agreement that is forming it appears that they (world powers) have given up on that commitment and are accepting that Iran will gradually, within a few years, develop capabilities to produce material for many nuclear weapons," he said. "They might accept this but I am not willing to accept this."

Netanyahu's remarks come amid an uproar over his upcoming visit to Washington. He accepted a Republican invitation to address Congress about Iran in early March, but the speech has angered the Obama administration because it was arranged without consulting the White House, a breach of diplomatic protocol.

Relations between Netanyahu and the White House always have been tense. His planned speech also has drawn fire in Israel, coming just two weeks before national elections. Netanyahu has rejected the criticism, saying it is his duty to lobby against the nuclear deal.

Off The Wall

Newly discovered wasp named after Boston Bruins goalie Rask

BOSTON (AP)—There's a new buzz surrounding Boston Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask.

A Boston-area researcher who was part of a team that discovered a new species of wasp in Kenya has named the insect Thaumatodryinus tuukkaraski in Rask's honor.

Robert Copeland, an entomologist at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology in Nairobi who grew up in Newton, Massachusetts, named the wasp after Rask to show his admiration for the player who has "had an outstanding career in one of the most difficult positions in sports," according to a story in The Boston Globe (http://bit.ly/1JGNte9) on Tuesday.

A paper based on the discovery is scheduled to be published in April in the journal Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae.

"This species is named after the acrobatic goaltender for the Finnish National ice hockey team and the Boston Bruins, whose glove hand is as tenacious as the raptorial fore tarsus of this dryinid species," the authors wrote in the paper.

Also, the project that led to the discovery was underwritten by the government of Finland, Rask's homeland.

Rask said he has heard of Bruins fans naming their pets after him, but never an entire species.

"That's funny. That's pretty neat," Rask said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

2 men accused of parachuting 200 feet from crane get tickets

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—Police have ticketed two men accused of climbing a 200-foot crane in downtown Boulder, Colorado, at night and parachuting to the street below. Department spokeswoman Kim Kobel tells the Daily Camera that 24-year-old Scott Murga and 35-year-old Richard Edward Servantes have been cited for second-degree trespassing. Two officers were on patrol at 2 a.m. Feb. 7 when a man told them someone had fallen and needed help. The officers found Murga injured and lying in the road wearing a parachute.

Police: Bus aide stole lunch money, food from preschoolers

MILVILLE, N.J. (AP)—A school bus aide has been charged with stealing lunch money and bagged lunches from preschoolers in New Jersey. Police in Millville say 33-year-old Rosa Rios was caught on a surveillance camera rummaging through students' backpacks. She's accused of stealing money and food from the 3- to 5-year-olds she was supervising in January and February. Authorities first reviewed the footage because the bus driver complained that someone had stolen $400 from her. Rios is also under investigation in that theft.

Refracted rays from Nutella jar blamed for UK house fire

LONDON (AP)—London's firefighters say sun rays refracted by a Nutella jar likely caused a house fire. The city's fire brigade says investigators believe the glass jar—which had been emptied of the hazelnut spread—had been placed on a window sill and refracted sunlight, setting blinds alight. According to a statement posted Tuesday by the brigade, the family was not at home but the blaze killed a dog. Fire investigator Charlie Pugsley said: "It sounds far-fetched that a jar containing a few rubber bands caused a severe house fire but that's exactly what happened."

Rescued sea turtle flown from Oregon to California

NEWPORT, Ore. (AP)—A sea turtle that was rescued from frigid Northwest waters and treated at the Oregon Coast Aquarium has caught a ride back to California on a Coast Guard training flight. The aquarium in Newport says the endangered olive ridley turtle named Solstice hitched a ride Tuesday on a Coast Guard C-130 and will complete her rehabilitation at SeaWorld in San Diego. A Coast Guard spokesman confirms the turtle safely reached San Diego. Solstice was dehydrated with a body temperature 15 degrees below normal when she was found Dec. 21 on the Long Beach Peninsula in southwest Washington. With the approval of the Fish and Wildlife, Solstice will be released this summer in warmer waters where turtles typically range.

Massachusetts man selling, shipping snow from his yard

MANCHESTER-by-the-SEA, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts man has found a way to profit from the several feet of snow in his yard: He's shipping it to people in warmer climates for the bargain price of $89 for six pounds. Kyle Waring, of Manchester-by-the-Sea, got the idea while shoveling snow earlier this winter and launched ShipSnowYo.com. At first he shipped 16.9-ounce snow-filled bottles for $19.99, but he found the snow melted by the time it arrived at its destination. So he came up with a new plan, selling six pounds at a time. He tells Boston.com even if the snow melts a little by the time it arrives, the package can still make 10 to 15 snowballs. He's also started offering 10-pound packages for $119.

First Death Anniversary

LYDIA BABAUTA CAMACHO

"Nan Didang"

We, the family would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Mass of intention will be offered daily at the following churches:

Tanapag:
February 23, 2015 (Mon.) - 6:00 p.m.
February 25, 2015 (Wed.) - 6:00 p.m.
February 27, 2015 (Fri.) - 6:00 p.m.
February 28, 2015 (Sat.) - 6:00 p.m.
March 02, 2015 (Mon.) - 6:00 p.m.

San Roque:
February 24, 2015 (Tue.) - 6:00 p.m.
February 26, 2015 (Thurs.) - 6:00 p.m.
March 01, 2015 (Sun.) - 9:30 a.m.

On the final day, March 03, 2015 (Tue.), Mass will be offered at 6:00 pm at San Roque Church. Dinner will be serve thereafter.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you, Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

THE FAMILY

Science & Technology

HAL wins: Computer program bests humans at Space Invaders

WASHINGTON (AP)—Computers already have bested human champions in "Jeopardy!" and chess, but artificial intelligence now has gone to master an entirely new level: "Space Invaders."

Google scientists have cooked up software that can do better than humans on dozens of Atari video games from the 1980s, like video pinball, boxing, and `Breakout.' But computers don't seem to have a ghost of a chance at "Ms. Pac-Man."

The aim is not to make video games a spectator sport, turning couch potatoes who play games into couch potatoes who watch computers play games. The real accomplishment: computers that can teach themselves to succeed at tasks, learning from scratch, trial and error, just like humans.

The computer program, called Deep Q-network, wasn't given much in the way of instructions to start, but in time it did better than humans in 29 out of 49 games and in some cases, like video pinball, it did 26 times better, according to a new study released Wednesday by the journal Nature. It's a first time an artificial intelligence program bridged different type of learning systems, said study author Demis Hassabis of Google DeepMind in London.

Deep Q "can learn and adapt to unexpected things," Hassabis said in a news conference. "These types of systems are more human-like in the way they learn."

In the submarine game "Seaquest," Deep Q came up with a strategy that the scientists had never considered.

"It's definitely fun to see computers discover things that you didn't figure out yourself," said study co-author Volodymyr Mnih, also of Google.

Sebastian Thrun, director of the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at Stanford University, who wasn't part of the research, said in an email: "This is very impressive. Most people don't understand how far (artificial intelligence) has come. And this is just the beginning."

Nothing about Deep Q is customized to Atari or to a specific game. The idea is to create a "general learning system" that can figure tasks out by trial and error and eventually to stuff even humans have difficulty with, Hassabis said. This program, he said, "is the first rung of the ladder."

Carnegie Mellon University computer science professor Emma Brunskill, who also wasn't part of the study, said this learning despite lack of customization "brings us closer to having general purpose agents equipped to work well at learning a large range of tasks, instead of just chess or just `Jeopardy!'"

To go from pixels on a screen to making decisions on what to do next, without even a hint of pre-programmed guidance, "is really exciting," Brunskill said. "We do that as people."

The idea is that when the system gets scaled up, maybe it could work like asking a phone to plan a complete trip to Europe, book all the flights and hotels on its own "and it sorts it all out as if you have a personal assistant," Hassabis said.

But to some ways of thinking, Deep Q wasn't even as smart as a toddler because it can't transfer learned experiences from one situation to another and it doesn't get abstract concepts, Hassabis said.

Science Matters

Sex is a spectrum

It is not a simple, clear-cut law of nature that there are just two human sexes; evidence is mounting that humans vary widely from those typical patterns.

Human cells have 23 chromosome pairs:

Typical female

- **XX** chromosomes
- Ovaries
- Female internal and external genitals
- Female secondary sex characteristics: breasts, body shape, etc.

One pair is called the sex chromosomes: X Y

Typical male

- **XY** chromosomes
- Testicles
- Male internal and external genitals
- Male secondary sex characteristics: body shape, body hair, etc.

Subtle variations

XX; ovaries; female internal, external genitals; **excess male hormones or polycystic ovaries**

XY; testicles; male internal, external genitals; **low sperm production**

Other variations

- XX; ovaries; female internal, external genitals; **variations in sex development (early ovary shutdown)**
- XX; **small testes; male external genitals; caused by the sex-determining gene *SRY***
- **XX and XY; testicle and ovary tissues; rarely, a mostly XY person conceives and bears a child**
- **Mosaicism; some of body's cells are XX, some are XY; varied effects**
- XY; testicles; **modified male external genitals (opening on penis underside)** **1 in 250-400 births**
- XY; testicles; **ambiguous external genitals; hormones cause growth of womb and ovaries**
- XXY (Klinefelter syndrome); **often appear male; many variations; one of the many "intersex" conditions** **1 in 500-1,000 male births**

Source: Nature magazine, National Human Genome Research Institute, Intersex Society of North America
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

New Facebook policy allows social media immortality

By DONNA LEINWAND LEGER
USA TODAY

Death may take your body, but it doesn't have to extinguish your online persona.

Facebook announced Thursday that it will allow you to designate a friend or family member to be your Facebook estate executor and manage your account when you're dead.

Starting today, Facebook users in the United States can choose a "legacy contact" to make one last post on your behalf when you die. That contact can respond to new friend requests, update the cover photo and profile, and archive your Facebook posts and photos.

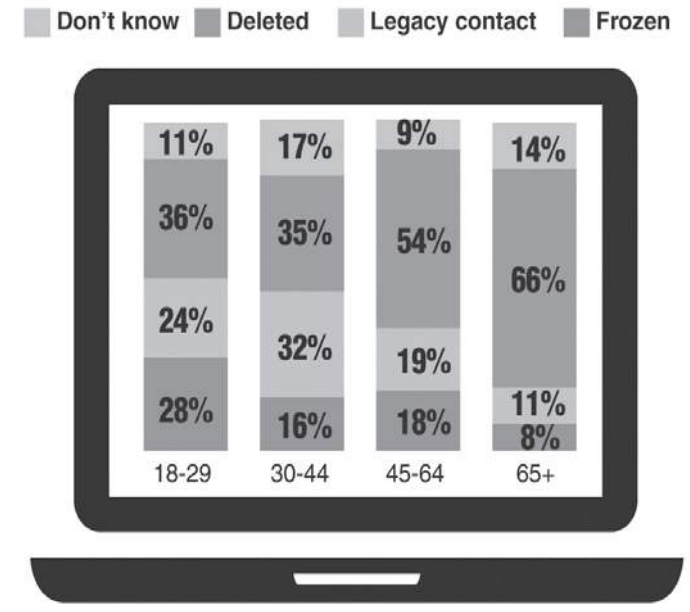
Until now, when family or friends notified Facebook that a user had died, Facebook verified the death and "memorialized" the account, meaning the account could be viewed but it could not be edited or managed, Facebook product manager Vanessa Callison-Burch said.

Facebook has fielded "hundreds of thousands" of requests since the social media site began memorializing pages in 2007, Jodi Seth, a spokeswoman for Facebook, said.

"We heard from family members who wanted to post funeral information or download and preserve photos," Callison-Burch said. "We realized there was more we could do."

Families have long grappled with how to dispose of the digital personal effects of a deceased family member. Fewer than a dozen states have laws governing authority over digital assets, according to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Virginia in 2013 passed a law that allows parents or guardians to take control of a dead child's online accounts after parents of a dead Virginia teenager couldn't get access to his account.

A Zogby Poll in January found that most adults have some concerns about what happens to their digital presence after they die. The poll of 1,012 adults found that 71% want online communications to remain private unless they gave prior consent, and 43% want their private accounts on online services deleted unless they have given prior consent for someone else to access them.



Source: Yougov.com
Graphic: TNS

Facebook's 186 million users in the United States can go into a feature under settings to choose a legacy contact to manage the account, opt to have the account deleted permanently after death or do nothing.

Friends or family can report a death through an electronic form at the online Facebook Help Center. Once Facebook is notified of a death and confirms it, Facebook will add the tagline "Remembering" over the user's name and notify the legacy contact. The legacy contact will not be able to log in as the person who died or view that person's private messages, Callison-Burch said.

Here's how to designate a Facebook 'Legacy Contact':

■ On the right side of your Facebook page, click on the downward-facing arrow to show the drop-down menu. Click on "Settings."

■ Choose "Security," then "Legacy Contact" at the bottom of the page.

■ Choose your Legacy Contact from your friends list. Choose the options you want your Legacy Contact to have.

■ The system will offer an option to send a message to that person.

Publishers stand by Bill O'Reilly despite accuracy questions

AP
In this Oct. 28, 2013 file photo, political commentator Bill O'Reilly attends the National Geographic Channel's "Killing Kennedy" world premiere screening reception at The Newseum, in Washington.

NEW YORK (AP)—Book publishers for Fox News Channel host Bill O'Reilly say they stand behind his work despite questions that have been raised about his reporting.

O'Reilly's series of books about the deaths of John F. Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln and Jesus Christ have sold millions of copies and been turned into successful movies for the National Geographic channel. The latest adaptation, "Killing Jesus," is set to premiere on Palm Sunday.

The liberal watchdog Media Matters for America this week reported on a 2013 online post that questioned O'Reilly's claim that in 1977 he was outside the Florida home of George de Mohrenschildt, a friend of Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, when he killed himself with a shotgun. De Mohrenschildt had been contacted by congressional investigators looking into the assassination.

O'Reilly's claim that he was there was in his book "Killing Kennedy." Media Matters quoted police reports, media accounts, former colleagues and other sources that dispute O'Reilly's claim that he was there. At the time, O'Reilly was a reporter for a Dallas television station.

Henry Holt and Co. "fully stand behind Bill O'Reilly and his best-seller `Killing Kennedy,' and we're very proud to count him as one of our most important authors," spokesperson Pat Eisemann said.

Fox News issued a statement reiterating its "staunch support" for O'Reilly and said it would not respond to the individual accusations.

Also this week, the publisher of O'Reilly's best-selling "The O'Reilly Factor" defended the book, which refers to his disputed coverage of the Falklands War. The magazine Mother Jones said that O'Reilly claimed to be in a "war zone" in Argentina when instead he was at a demonstration far from the front.

David Drake, senior vice president and deputy publisher for the Crown Publishing Group, said that Crown would "continue to publish our author's book just as he wrote it."

O'Reilly has faced questions on his books in the past. In 2011, one of the stores at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., where Lincoln was assassinated, declined to sell "Killing Lincoln" because of historical errors. Those included giving the wrong year the theater was destroyed by fire and referring to the Oval Office in the White House when it had not been built.

Media Matters posted another story Wednesday questioning an O'Reilly statement that he had witnessed the execution of four nuns during El Salvador's civil war in 1980, based on a 2012 statement that O'Reilly made that "I saw nuns get shot in the back of the head."

O'Reilly said Wednesday, however, that he had been shown pictures of the aftermath of the shooting while he was in El Salvador. He said his 2012 statement, during a discussion of the nature of evil after the Newtown, Connecticut, school shooting massacre, was a reference to seeing those pictures, not the shooting itself.

O'Reilly was defended—sort of—by longtime nemesis Jon Stewart on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" on Monday. Stewart has suggested the media should be spending more time looking at the actions of politicians than media figures like Brian Williams and O'Reilly.

Stewart noted the reporting on O'Reilly's past work at the same time his Fox show, "The O'Reilly Factor," is sending a staffer to look at all the snow in Boston and question global warming—reporting more worthy of scrutiny.

"Why don't we just agree that a certain amount of anecdotes from our media figures are seasoned with (expletive) and let's move on," Stewart said.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

In Celebration of Her New Life

Rosa Benavente Royal

Lovingly known as "Chai/Nan Chai"

Born to Life on July 18, 1939
Called to her Eternal Life by our Dear Lord
on Wednesday, February 25, 2015

In Her New Life, She now Joins Her:
PARENTS: Guillermo Villagomez & Carmen Manahane Benavente
HUSBAND: Takeshi A. Royal
BROTHERS/SISTERS & IN-LAWS:
Antonio M. & Victoria M. Benavente, Roman M. & Dolores T. Benavente,
Fernando M. & Faustina S. Benavente, Ignacio M. & Isabel A. Benavente,
Margarita B. & Jose I. Seman, Ana B. & Felipe Aldan, Maria B. & Rudy Sedmik, and Charles Helstrom.

Her Spirit and Memories will Live Forever in the Hearts of Her:
CHILDREN: William & Cecilia Benavente & Family
Thelma & Rufin S. Inos & Children
Joseph & Janet Benavente & Children
Esther & Paul S. Delos Reyes & Family
James Benavente & Vince Lopez
Elizabeth & Melvin Camacho & Family
Kelby & Bonnie T. Royal & Family
SISTER: Bernadita B. Helstrom

She is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives & godchildren.

Daily Mass is offered at 6:00pm at Saint Jude Church, except on Saturday at 7:00am and Sunday at 6:00am.

Nightly rosary is offered immediately after the mass, except for Saturday (2/28) and Sunday (3/01) will be at 6:30pm.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Your Thoughts and Prayers are Greatly Appreciated

The Family

Smith and Sheeran win, Kanye stirs it up at UK's Brit Awards

LONDON (AP)—Sam Smith and Ed Sheeran each won a pair of prizes Wednesday at Britain's leading music awards—but it took Kanye West to introduce some edge, with a song that proved too strong for television.

And Madonna gave the Brit Awards an unscripted moment when she took a dramatic tumble during a performance of "Living For Love."

The queen of pop, who entered wearing a long cape carried by dancers, fumbled with the garment and fell backward down several stairs during the song, which includes a lyric about stumbling.

The song continues "I'm gonna carry on"—and she did, continuing the matador-themed routine.

Afterwards, she posted on Instagram that her cape had been tied too tightly, but said: "I'm fine!"

Elsewhere there were few surprises at the awards, which recognize international stars along with homegrown British talent.

Tousle-haired singer Sheeran won prizes for best British male solo artist and British album of the year, for "X." Soulful crooner Smith won trophies for British breakthrough act and global success.

"Since I was a little kid I dreamed of people all over the world singing my songs," Smith said. "This shows I'm stepping in the right direction."

The 22-year-old Smith won four Grammys earlier this month, including record of the year for "Stay With Me."

AP

Madonna performs onstage at the Brit Awards 2015 at the 02 Arena in London, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015.

Smith was sultry and Sheeran was sensible, but West provided a dose of raw energy. He performed his raw, grime-influenced new song "All Day," whose lyrics, peppered with expletives and the n-word, were muted for the show's live TV broadcast.

West has said his new clothing line was influenced by the 2011 London riots, and the performance also had an urban-unrest feel, involving dozens of dancers and a giant flamethrower.

It has been a big year for British music, with Smith storming the Grammys and artists like Sheeran, baby-faced singer-songwriter George Ezra and the still-ubiquitous One Direction making waves.

The Brits were once renowned for chaos, enlivened by incidents including a 1992 stunt in which British band the KLF left a dead sheep at the after-show dinner. But the ceremony has been transformed in recent years into a slick talent showcase.

West aside, the tone of the evening was accomplished but not edgy, opening with a sleekly saucy performance of "Blank Space" by a black-clad Taylor Swift.

Swift was named best international female artist, while "Happy" hit-maker Pharrell Williams was named best international male act, and Foo Fighters won the trophy for international group. Mark Ronson's "Uptown Funk" took the prize for best British single.

A dash of rock `n' roll was added by grungy duo Royal Blood, awarded the best British group trophy by Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page—once a symbol of rock rebellion, now a distinguished elder statesman.

Royal Blood singer Mike Kerr said the award was a surprise to the band, and possibly to the audience, "as you may not even know who we are."

The prize for best British female artist went to retro-loving singer Paloma Faith, who dedicated her award to "all the underdogs and all the grafters" who struggle to succeed.

Clutching a curvy white Brits statuette designed by artist Tracey Emin, Faith recalled how in her early days she had been arrested for putting up posters for her gigs. Now, she said, "my pictures are all over Greenwich Tube station legally, and that's an amazing feeling."

Winners in most categories are decided by a ballot of music-industry members, with some chosen by public vote, including a best British video award selected by online ballot during the ceremony. It was won by One Direction—just like last year.

Q&A: 'Modern Family' producer talks episode shot with iPhone

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—For this week's "Modern Family," producers put down their expensive professional cameras and shot the episode with iPhones and other Apple devices. Seen through the eyes of character Claire Dunphy as she uses a Mac laptop, characters only appear on her computer's FaceTime video-calling app.

The Associated Press spoke with series co-creator and executive producer Steve Levitan about the thinking behind shooting with a smartphone and lessons learned. The episode, "Connection Lost," airs on ABC at 9 p.m. EST Wednesday and is available online Thursday (Hulu Plus, cable or satellite subscription required until next week).

Questions and answers have been edited for clarity and length.

Q. What did you find most surprising?

A. We thought the actors would be their own camera person originally, but it's just a lot for them to have to get everything framed just right. We quickly devised a method where a camera person held the phone just in front of them. So that it didn't look like the phone was floating in space, we always had an actor put their hand on the cameraman's hand. That made it look like they were doing a selfie thing.

Q. How does the iPhone compare with traditional cameras?

A. When you have a controlled environment, it's easy to get nice-looking images. The challenge comes when you're dealing with extremes—extreme brightness and darkness. The cameras we typically use cost tens of thousands of dollars and use lenses that cost just as much. You're going to always get a better quality with those. But the phone's quality is quite good. It's just amazing what's happened to smartphones in five years.

Q. Could you have achieved the same effect with professional cameras?

A. We wanted it to look as real as possible, so rather than shoot it on this incredible camera and then dumb the image down a bit so it looks like an iPhone, why not just shoot it with an iPhone? This is certainly good enough for our purposes, and it made the most sense.

AP

This photo provided by Twentieth Century Fox Television shows, from left, Claire Dunphy, Jay Pritchett, and Phil Dunphy, in a scene from the episode, "Connection Lost," of "Modern Family."

Q. Where do you see this going, not just with iPhones but other consumer gadgets such as GoPro video cameras and digital SLRs?

A. It opens up filmmaking to people who don't have the resources for expensive equipment. There's a movie at the Sundance film festival this year that was shot on an iPhone. You really can, if you wanted to, shoot a movie on an iPhone or a thousand-dollar camera and then edit it on your computer. If you're clever enough, it can look like an expensive movie. That said, filmmaking is not just about having the technology and the camera. It's also about having a vision and the story. That's always going to rely on good old-fashioned human ingenuity.

Q. How do you avoid making the equipment the center of the attention?

A. The really compelling part here is the story telling, not so much how we did it technologically. At the end of the day, this story needed to be told this way. It's an emotional story, and it's a funny story. Ultimately when you have that going for you, it keeps this from becoming a gimmick. While the iPhone thing is a nice headline, I hope ultimately people remember this as a compelling episode.

Q. There are lots of Android and Windows users out there. Do you worry about criticism that you are focusing too much on Apple?

A. This is the way my family communicates. We happen to be an Apple family. This is the technology that I know. If Claire started contacting everybody through Google Hangouts, it would have felt less believable to me because I don't know anybody who uses it that way. It doesn't mean people don't, but I don't. Samsung makes beautiful TVs. They make beautiful phones. It just so happens that I use Apple, so it's the way that makes sense for me. (After producers reached out to Apple, the company provided devices, but didn't pay for their inclusion.)

Q. Any tips for budding filmmakers?

A. Using this kind of technology is nothing but a means to an end. The more important thing is to spend time on the story and the characters and make sure you have something compelling that's worth actually using these devices for. If you don't, it's very easy to come up with beautiful images and fun camera tricks. The real difficult part is to have something worth filming. That's where you should put the bulk of your time and energy.

Judge orders Lohan to redo some community service hours

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan must give an encore performance of 125 hours of community service after a judge on Wednesday determined she improperly received credit for appearing in a London stage play.

Lohan

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mark Young told the actress to redo the hours at a new agency. Young set a March 12 hearing to choose a new organization where Lohan can complete the hours before a May 28 deadline.

Santa Monica Chief Deputy City Attorney Terry White said Lohan had received credits for time she spent performing "Speed-the-Plow" at a London theater. He said Lohan's lawyer, Shawn Holley, agreed that some of the hours would be redone at a new organization.

White raised concerns about Lohan's service at a hearing last month and was given time to investigate the issue.

He met with Young and Holley in chambers Wednesday before the judge's decision was announced. Lohan did not attend Wednesday's hearing.

The community service is one of the last elements of Lohan's sentence for a 2012 case involving reckless driving and lying to police that was filed after she crashed into a dump truck on Pacific Coast Highway.

Holley did not return an email message seeking comment.

Lady Gaga joining the cast of FX's 'American Horror Story'

NEW YORK (AP)—TV is Lady Gaga's new platform: After an impressive performance at the Oscars, the singer announced she will join the cast of "American Horror Story."

FX confirmed Wednesday that the pop star will join the fifth season of the hit series, which returns in October. No details were provided.

Gaga tweeted a horror flick-inspired video of herself in a mask. She said the name of the show's new season is "American Horror Story Hotel."

The 28-year-old Grammy-winning singer starred in the 2013 film "Machete Kills." She earned rave reviews for her performance honoring "The Sound of Music" at Sunday's Academy Awards. Her tour with Tony Bennett kicks off April 23 in Austin, Texas.

Richard sex assault probe has expanded, says lawmaker

LONDON (AP)—A police investigation of veteran pop star Cliff Richard relating to claims of sexual assault has "increased significantly in size," a British lawmaker said Wednesday.

Police said in August they questioned the 74-year-old singer and searched a house belonging to him after receiving what they called "an allegation of a sexual nature."

Richard, a fixture on the British pop scene since the late 1950s, has not been arrested or charged. He recorded hit singles in the pre-Beatles era and has been popular ever since, receiving a knighthood in 1995.

Richard

In a statement issued Wednesday, he called the allegations "absurd and untrue."

"I have never, in my life, assaulted anyone and I remain confident that the truth will prevail," he said, adding that he had cooperated fully with police.

Lawmaker Keith Vaz earlier Wednesday said he had received information from police that the investigation into Richard now involves more than one allegation.

Richard is among several high-profile figures in Britain's entertainment industry to be embroiled in allegations about past sex abuse, some stretching back decades.

Ex-'America's Next Top Model' contestant among 3 dead in NC

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—A young man has been charged with killing a former contestant on "America's Next Top Model."

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police in North Carolina said in a statement Wednesday that 19-year-old Emmanuel Jesus Rangel-Hernandez has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder in the death of 19-year-old Mirjana Puhar and two other victims. The victims' bodies were found in a Charlotte, North Carolina, home on Tuesday. Police did not reveal how they were killed.

Tyra Banks and Ken Mok are co-producers of the reality TV show "America's Next Top Model." The two confirmed Wednesday in a written statement that Puhar appeared on the show last year.

Police say Rangel-Hernandez is also charged in connection with a murder at a motel Sunday.

The suspect is being held at a local jail. Online records don't indicate whether he has an attorney.

AP

In this Sept. 6, 2011 file photo, children's book author Maurice Sendak speaks during an interview at his home in Ridgefield, Conn.

US town pursues museum honoring Maurice Sendak

HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP)—Three years after Maurice Sendak's death, his Connecticut hometown is pursuing a museum honoring the author of "Where the Wild Things Are."

The town of Ridgefield has its sights on a vacant modernist building in walking distance from the village center, a glass structure designed by acclaimed architect Philip Johnson as corporate offices for an oil exploration company that left in 2006.

A panel of local arts figures recently received endorsement from the town and Sendak's foundation to explore the proposal. Members say they have found overwhelming support for the idea to honor a man whose influence went far beyond that of a children's book author.

"The fact is, he loved the community, and the legacy of supporting all the arts was and is important to him and all those around him," said Lloyd Taft, a local architect.

The 45-acre (18-hectare) campus of the energy services company Schlumberger, including the proposed museum site, was acquired by Ridgefield in 2012 for $7 million. On Tuesday, town voters approved the sale of 10 of the acres for residential construction, returning $4.3 million to the town. The first selectman, Rudy Marconi, said the sale could help the museum proposal by giving planners flexibility on decisions regarding the rest of the property.

Sendak, who died in May 2012 at the age of 83, was born in New York City but spent the last four decades of his life in rural Ridgefield. Best known for the tale of naughty Max in "Wild Things," his work included other standard volumes in children's bedrooms such as "Chicken Soup With Rice," a book about the different months in a year, and "Brundibar," a folk tale about two children who need to earn enough money to buy milk for their sick mother. He also illustrated his own work, created costumes for ballets and staged operas, including the Czech opera "Brundibar."

His 18th-century farmhouse is being preserved as Sendak left it.

Given the location of Sendak's home in a wooded area, the foundation has sought a more accessible place for the public display of his artwork, manuscripts and other ephemera.

Marconi said the town knew all along it wanted to preserve the Philip Johnson building and an adjoining auditorium, and after Sendak's death, many in the affluent town of 25,000 people on the New York line had the same idea to use it as a Sendak museum. The building has skylights over main circulation areas and despite a few roof leaks is considered to be in decent shape despite being vacant for so long.

Sleepwalker's restless habit has turned into a nightmare

DEAR ABBY: I am engaged to "Tony," whom I have known since first grade. We live with his mother under the same roof, but in separate rooms. Tony is perfect in every way except one: He's a restless sleeper.

Sometimes he wakes up shouting. He has fallen down the stairs and woken up in different rooms. He talks in his sleep as well. I thought I could live with it, but a month ago things changed.

I came home late and he was sleeping downstairs. I think he thought I was an intruder. He woke up and ran at me. He started trying to hit me and was shouting. I was screaming and crying, "Honey!" over and over to wake him up. He says he would never hurt me, but when he ran at me, it was clear he didn't recognize me.

For a week after that, I slept with a barricade against my door. Now I'm terrified of him when he's asleep. I know it's only a matter of time before we move out on our own and will be sleeping in the same room, or trying. How can I get over this fear or help him to sleep more soundly?

COWERING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR COWERING: You can help your fiance by getting him to a sleep disorder specialist, because that's his problem. Frankly, I am surprised he hasn't seen one before now. His doctor can refer him, or he can go online to find one near you. Please don't wait until something like this happens again, or he hurts himself falling down stairs while sleepwalking.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We are a group of 10 friends, all retirees from the same large organization. We meet for lunch every few weeks and enjoy talking amongst ourselves about people we knew and situations that took place in our old jobs.

A supervisor many of us had work issues with is about to retire. We are concerned that it's only a matter of time until she approaches us and wants to join our lunch group. We have thought about saying it's "loose-knit" and "we have no formal time or place," but that's not exactly true, and we're sure she wouldn't be deterred by that.

I wish I had the nerve to tell her the group is for us rank-and-file employees—no supervisors allowed. Because we may run into her from time to time once she is retired, we want to be gracious but assertive about our refusal to have her join us. Advice?

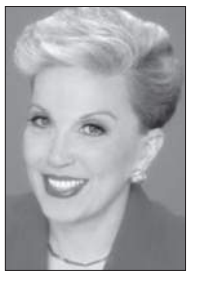
GROUP MEMBER IN THE SOUTH

DEAR GROUP MEMBER: If the woman approaches you (keep in mind that your worries may not materialize and you may not be asked), remember she's no longer your supervisor and can no longer affect your life in any way. If she asks if she can join you, you should tell her no. And if she asks why, explain it to her exactly as you explained it to me. It's the truth. (As we sow, so shall we reap.)

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: Does a male in his own home, walking around bare-chested, have to put a shirt on when someone is going to enter the home from the outside?

DAVE IN FLORIDA

DEAR DAVE: If there is any question that the person entering your home might be offended, out of consideration, you should cover up. A close friend or family member might not mind, but it's better to err on the side of caution.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

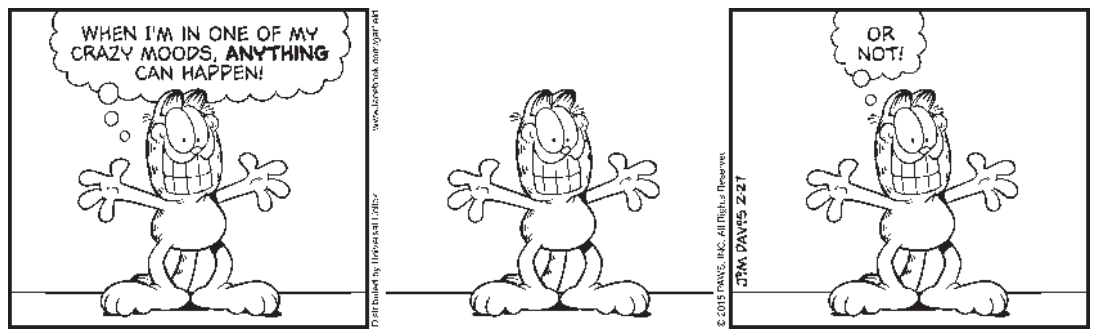
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WOULDN'T IT BE COOL IF YOU SNEEZED AND THE SPRAY FROM YOUR NOSE INSTANTLY FROZE?
YOU COULD BREAK IT OFF YOUR FACE AND HAVE A 3-D SCULPTURE OF YOUR SNEEZE!
...WELL, I THINK IT WOULD BE COOL.
PEOPLE WONDER WHY CATS ARE SOLITARY.

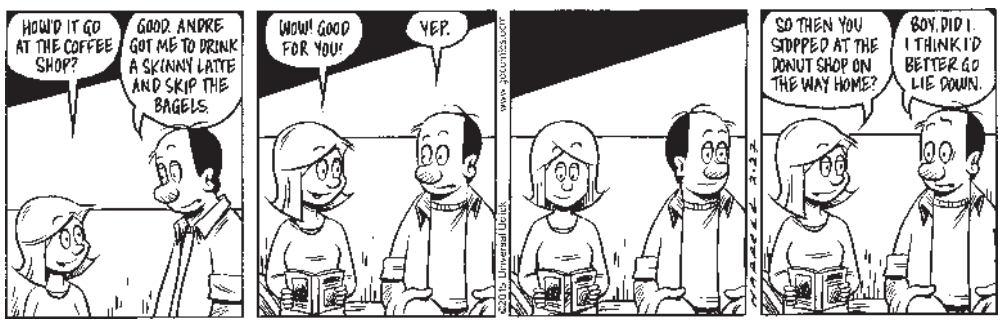
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



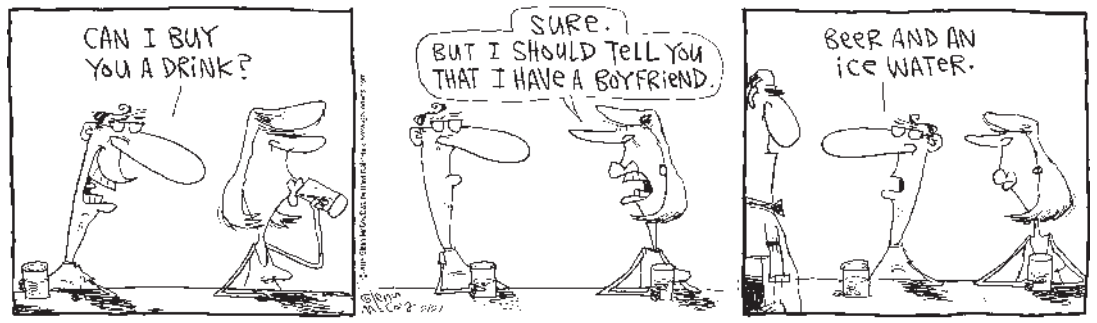
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HOW'D IT GO AT THE COFFEE SHOP?
GOOD. ANDRE GOT ME TO DRINK A SKINNY LATTE AND SKIP THE BAGELS.
WOW! GOOD FOR YOU!
YEP.
SO THEN YOU STOPPED AT THE DONUT SHOP ON THE WAY HOME?
BOY, DID I. I THINK I'D BETTER GO LIE DOWN.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

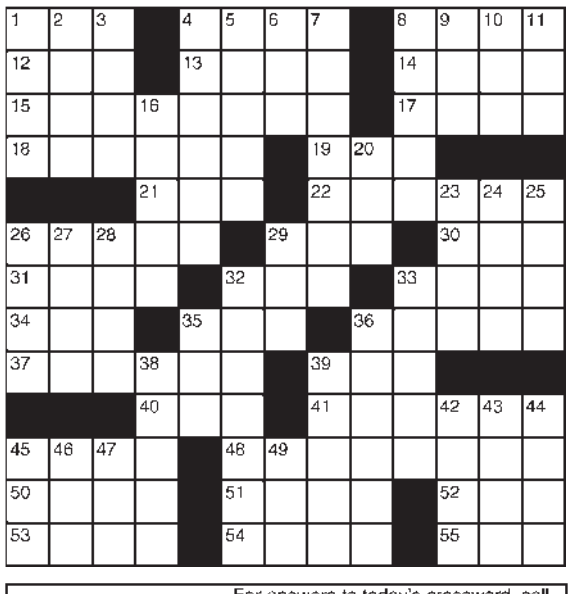
ACROSS
1 "Keep it down!"
4 Touch
8 Consider
12 Sailor's assent
13 Clean
14 Gumbo ingredient
15 Track star, maybe
17 Round figure?
18 Recluse
19 Banjo's kin
21 Whichever
22 Skiing time
26 Yuletide punchbowl fill
29 Phone transmission
30 Galena, e.g.
31 Peregrinate
32 Snoop
33 Cheshire countenance
34 Lemieux milieu
35 Fella
36 Gleam
37 "The Dumb Waiter" playwright
39 Inseparable
40 Parisian pal
41 Family subdivisions
45 Genie's home
48 Break into factions
50 Theater award
51 Links props
52 Rotating part
53 Sport
54 Lip
55 Storefront-sign abbr.

DOWN
1 Cummerbund
2 Advertise big-time
3 Frau's mate
4 Canopy
5 Nuts
6 Work with
7 High-speed road
8 Doughnut-shop order
9 — out a living
10 Mess up
11 VIP in China's history
16 Mirror's offering
20 Breakfast-cereal name
23 Spelling or Amos
24 Green land
25 "Monopoly" payment
26 Suitcase
27 Places
28 It takes the cake
29 Sauté
32 Sticklers
33 First American orbiter
35 Jewel
36 Type of layered rock
38 Diminish gradually
39 Lecher's looks
42 Leave a good impression?
43 Posterior
44 Weaponry
45 Despondent
46 Copper head?
47 "Mamma —!"
49 Shooter ammo

Solution time: 26 mins.

B	O	L	D	■	S	E	E	K	■	W	A	G
A	J	A	R	■	I	V	A	N	■	A	V	E
W	A	T	E	R	G	A	T	E	■	T	E	N
I	I	F	S	I	N	■	■	A	I	F	R	T
■	■	■	S	O	■	H	E	D	E	R	■	■
A	C	H	Y	■	F	A	R	■	A	L	S	O
T	O	O	■	■	U	Z	I	■	■	O	J	R
V	O	T	E	■	M	E	N	■	B	O	M	B
■	■	W	A	L	E	S	■	M	Y	■	■	■
S	P	A	R	E	■	■	O	O	L	O	N	G
O	R	T	■	G	O	I	D	W	A	T	E	R
D	O	E	■	A	V	I	D	■	W	I	R	E
A	P	R	■	L	A	S	S	■	S	C	O	W

Yesterday's answer 2-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Josh Groban, 34; Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas, 44; Donal Logue, 49; Howard Hesseman, 75.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on self-improvement and taking care of any unfinished business. Getting all your personal affairs in order will help ease your stress, allowing you to pay more attention to the people and pastimes that bring you the most joy. Bring about changes that will help you feel comfortable and capable of reaching your goals. Stabilize personal partnerships. Your numbers are 8, 11, 23, 27, 30, 34, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't believe everything you hear, or react prematurely to the information made available. Energy is best channeled toward physical activity, not temper tantrums or arguments. Make love, not war, and you will avoid facing unnecessary regret. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stand up for your beliefs and your rights. Join forces with like-minded people and press employers to improve working conditions. Pursue important self-improvements to ensure greater support and success. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put yourself in someone else's shoes and offer assistance. Make your motives clear to ensure you get what you need in return for your help. Home improvements will make it easier to use your place for meetings and family gatherings. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You will feel like hibernating to avoid any emotional turmoil. Concentrate on making yourself happy and do the things that you enjoy. Lower your stress and pamper yourself. Don't feel guilty for wanting some time alone. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Travel and sharing information will lead to unexpected benefits. Put plans in motion, but before you finalize a deal, look at the fine print and make the necessary adjustments. You can come out on top if you are precise and smart in your negotiations. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Think and plan before you take action. You will face unexpected setbacks if you try to coerce someone into doing something for you. Focus on detail and precision instead of trying to present something that isn't ready. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You have more to offer than you realize. You are intelligent, gifted and intuitive. Don't sabotage your own advancement. You have the goods, so don't hesitate to show everyone what you can do. A beneficial partnership will develop if you strive for equality. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make unusual changes to the way you live. Taking a different approach to the way you do things will spark your imagination, but may upset someone affected by the changes you make. Reassurance will save you from relationship problems. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep everything you do out in the open to avoid being accused, misrepresented or dealt with unfairly. You can accomplish financial as well as personal goals as long as you minimize outside interference. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make changes to the way you approach your work. It's best to keep competitors guessing. Keep your thoughts and actions a secret until you are positive that you can launch an unbeatable presentation. Don't let an emotional matter stand between you and your success. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Step into action. Make changes that will help you improve your chances to advance. Picking up unusual skills will separate you from any competition you face. Open discussions with someone you love will help resolve a pressing matter. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Remain quiet and observe what's going on around you. Emotional blackmail is apparent. Someone is likely to use ulterior motives to win your support. Get the facts and make the changes required before you make a move. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful and productive. You are progressive and trendy.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2				9	
		9				8	6	
	5							2
3		6			8			1
	8						2	
2			4			5		8
8							1	
	7	4				2		
	9				6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	1	3	5	6	7	8	4
7	3	5	8	9	4	6	2	1
8	4	6	2	7	1	9	5	3
4	5	2	7	8	9	1	3	6
1	7	3	4	6	5	2	9	8
9	6	8	1	2	3	5	4	7
6	2	4	5	3	7	8	1	9
5	1	7	9	4	8	3	6	2
3	8	9	6	1	2	4	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CLASSIC ERRORS Solution: 8 letters

(F)	N	G	W	L	F	A	U	X	P	A	S	E	A	W
R	(L)	O	L	R	E	P	O	O	L	B	X	T	C	O
S	A	(A)	I	I	I	C	I	D	O	A	R	T	O	R
N	F	M	(W)	T	T	T	Y	J	M	I	N	B	E	D
O	T	S	M	R	A	C	E	S	A	E	O	U	N	S
I	N	I	I	A	O	L	H	L	M	O	R	M	T	G
T	E	R	S	E	R	N	U	E	B	U	A	P	T	N
P	M	E	P	E	G	G	G	C	S	M	L	L	E	I
M	G	N	L	S	P	A	A	D	L	T	U	C	S	L
U	D	O	A	P	N	I	R	F	O	A	R	T	T	L
S	U	O	Y	A	S	M	L	I	F	I	C	O	S	E
S	J	P	M	L	L	I	P	S	M	E	N	S	P	P
A	S	S	E	S	S	M	E	N	T	S	N	G	I	S
M	I	S	T	A	K	E	S	E	G	A	S	S	E	M
M	M	A	L	A	P	R	O	P	I	S	M	A	T	H

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Assessment, Assumptions, Blooper, Boo Boo, Bump, Clumsy, Exams, Fall, Fault, Faux Pas, Films, Flaw, Gaffe, Glitch, Grammar, Jobs, Lapse, Malapropism, Math, Messages, Mirage, Miscalculation, Misjudgment, Mismanagement, Misplay, Mistakes, Oral, Signs, Slip, Spelling, Spill, Spoonerism, Sports, Stumble, Tests, Trial, Words, Write, Wrongdoing

Yesterday's Answer: Bon Voyage

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(5) WAITRESS

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Other Qualifications:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- Full Time with flexible working hours.
- Salary: $6.05/hr
- Preferably someone who can speak Japanese language fluently.

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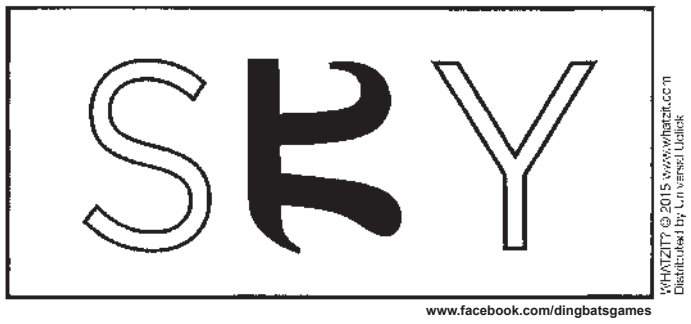

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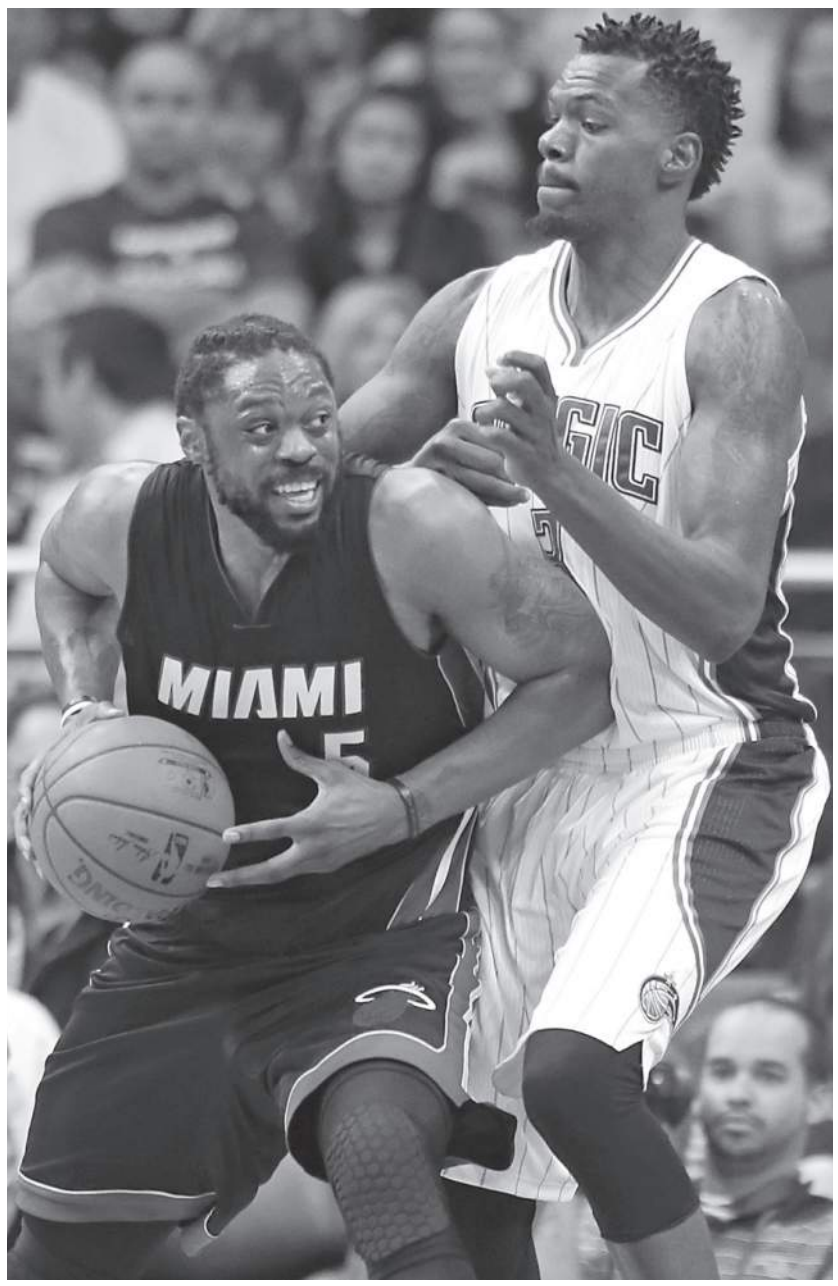
Heat take advantage of Magic miscues in 93-90 OT win

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Luol Deng had 21 points, Dwyane Wade added 18 and Miami rallied to beat Orlando.

Hassan Whiteside added 15 points and 13 rebounds. The Heat have won three of four since losing Chris Bosh for the season with a blood clot in his lung.

The Magic squandered an eight-point lead with less than a minute play in the fourth quarter, allowing the Heat to send the game to extra time.

Nik Vucevic had all five of the Magic's points in overtime, and finished with 26 points and eight rebounds. Victor Oladipo had 13 points and a career-high 13 rebounds.



AP

Miami Heat's Henry Walker, left, goes to the basket against Orlando Magic's Dewayne Dedmon during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, in Orlando, Fla. Miami won 93-90 in overtime.

Timberwolves 97, Wizards 77

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett made an emotional return to Minnesota with an ear-splitting reception and his Timberwolves overcame a jittery start to beat the Washington Wizards 97-77 on Wednesday night.

Garnett, the face of the franchise who was reacquired in a trade from Brooklyn last week, had five points on 2-for-7 shooting with eight rebounds and two blocks in 19 minutes in his first game for the Timberwolves since 2007. Kevin Martin scored 28 points and Andrew Wiggins had 19 for the Wolves, who trailed by 15 early after Garnett's stirring reintroduction.

Marcin Gortat had nine points and 15 rebounds for the Wizards, who have lost five in a row and 10 of their last 12. John Wall had five points on 2-for-10 shooting and 10 assists, and Paul Pierce missed the game with a bruised knee.

Nikola Pekovic had 15 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota, but the night belonged to KG, the charismatic superstar who put this woebegone franchise on the map during 12 brilliant seasons before getting traded to Boston in 2007.

Rockets 110, Clippers 105

In Houston, James Harden had 21 points, Corey Brewer scored 13 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and the Houston Rockets snapped a six-game skid to Los Angeles.

It's Houston's first victory over Los Angeles since March 30, 2013, and just the second win in the past 13 meetings with the Clippers.

The Rockets opened the fourth quarter with a 15-1 run to take a 99-86 lead. With the second unit in, Brewer starred in that stretch, scoring 10 points, with two 3-pointers.

Jamal Crawford led Los Angeles with 24 points. Chris Paul has 22 points and 14 assists, and DeAndre Jordan has 22 points and 19 rebounds.

Hawks 104, Mavericks 87

In Atlanta, Dennis Schroder had 17 points, Atlanta took the lead with a 13-0 run in the third quarter and went on beat Dallas, with the Mavericks playing without suspended guard Rajon Rondo.

The Mavericks suspended Rondo before the game for conduct detrimental to the team. Rondo had a heated exchange on the court with coach Rick Carlisle in the third quarter Tuesday night against Toronto.

Carlisle said the one-game suspension was an "organizational decision" and said Rondo will start in the Mavericks' next game against Brooklyn on Saturday.

Monta Ellis led Dallas with 19 points.

Hornets 98, Bulls 86

In Chicago, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 18 points and 12 rebounds, Mo Williams scored 17 points and Charlotte beat Chicago after the Bulls learned Derrick Rose will have yet another knee surgery.

Al Jefferson added 16 points to help the Hornets snap a five-game losing streak.

The Bulls revealed Tuesday night that Rose has a torn meniscus in his right knee, a big blow to the franchise. That fueled more doubts about whether the 2011 NBA MVP will ever be the same, let alone lead Chicago to its first championship since the Michael Jordan-Scottie Pippen era.

Kings 102, Grizzlies 90

In Sacramento, Calif., Rudy Gay scored 28 points, DeMarcus Cousins added 16 points and nine rebounds and Sacramento beat Memphis.

Cousins overcame foul trouble—and a confrontation with Grizzlies big man Zach Randolph—to lead Sacramento's 10-0 spurt to start the fourth quarter. He added six assists in just 24 minutes before fouling out. The Kings improved to 2-1 since George Karl took over as coach.

Randolph had 20 points and five rebounds. The Grizzlies had won 16 of 19.

Suns 110, Nuggets 96

In Denver, Brandon Knight hit two key late 3-pointers and had 19 points to help Phoenix snap a five-game losing streak.

Eric Bledsoe added 18 points for the Suns, who had six players score in double figures as they ended a seven-game road skid. The Suns grabbed 65 rebounds, most in the NBA this season.

Will Barton had 22 points, and Danilo Gallinari added 20 for Denver. Already without banged-up forwards Kenneth Faried (bruised left thumb) and Wilson Chandler (sore left groin), the Nuggets lost starter Darrell Arthur to a strained right knee in the first quarter. The injuries kept coming as center Jusuf Nurkic rolled his right ankle in the fourth quarter.

Pelicans 102, Nets 96

In New Orleans, Quincy Pondexter scored a career-high 25 points and New Orleans beat Brooklyn for its third straight victory.

Pondexter surpassed his previous high of 22 points by hitting his fourth 3-pointer of the game with 49.9 seconds left. Tyreke Evans had 15 points and 11 assists to help the Pelicans win with All-Star Anthony Davis missing his second straight game because of a shoulder injury.

Joe Johnson scored 21 points for Brooklyn.

Celtics 115, Knicks 94

In Boston, Evan Turner had his first career triple-double with 10 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists and Boston pulled away with 20 straight points in the second half.

Isaiah Thomas scored 19 in his home debut for the Celtics. Thomas, acquired by Boston on Feb. 19 in a deal with Phoenix, hit all 11 of his free throws and added seven assists and six rebounds.

Jonas Jerebko added 20 points, and Jae Crowder had 18, hitting a pair of Boston's eight 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. Andrea Bargnani led New York with 17 points. The Knicks have lost eight straight.

Bucks 104, 76ers 88

In Milwaukee, John Henson scored 21 points, Michael Carter-Williams had seven points and eight assists in his Milwaukee debut, and the Bucks built a big early lead against the point guard's former Philadelphia teammates.

Khris Middleton added 19 points for Milwaukee.

Jason Richardson scored 16 points for the 76ers.

Lakers 100, Jazz 97

In Salt Lake City, Jordan Clarkson scored a career-high 22 points and Los Angeles erased a double-digit deficit in a comeback victory over Utah.

The Lakers used a 10-0 run late in the fourth quarter to take their first lead at 90-88. The Jazz failed to gets stops down the stretch and couldn't score on the offensive end.

Gordon Hayward scored 20 points for the Jazz, and Elijah Millsap finished with a career-high 17.

Trail Blazers 111, Spurs 95

In Portland, Ore., Wesley Matthews scored 31 points, LaMarcus Aldridge had 11 points and 13 rebounds, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the slumping San Antonio Spurs for their first victory since the All-Star break.

Portland, Damian Lillard had 18 points and Nicolas Batum added 15 for Portland, which ended a two-game skid.

Tim Duncan shot 9 of 12 and scored 20 points to lead San Antonio, which lost its fourth consecutive game. Danny Green had 17 points for the defending NBA champions.

Latest injury to Rose hits Bulls hard

CHICAGO (AP)—The news that Derrick Rose will have knee surgery again hit the Chicago Bulls and their fans hard and left them in a familiar spot—trying to get by without their star point guard.

The torn meniscus in his right knee was announced Tuesday night, another tough twist for a franchise, a star, his sponsors and a fanbase that thought the Bulls were entering another golden era just a few years ago, with the Chicago product leading the renaissance.

Instead, he's having surgery on his right knee for the second straight year—on the heels of a season he missed entirely following a torn left ACL.

"It's so unfair," Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau said. "The guy's been through so much. Any time you have surgery, it's tough. This will hopefully be much, much shorter than the other one. But the big thing is our concern for him first as a person."

Rose's rise from growing up in a tough Chicago neighborhood to stardom with his hometown team is well-documented. He has a maximum contract with the Bulls and a huge marketing deal with Adidas.

But in some ways, this era is feeling like a big tease for the Bulls and their fans.

Instead of celebrating a championship for the first time since the Michael Jordan-Scottie Pippen era, they have suffered through close calls and long waits while Rose recovers.

It wasn't what the Bulls envisioned after taking him with the first pick in the 2008 draft. He went from Rookie of the Year to All-Star to MVP in his first three seasons, becoming the youngest player to win that award in 2011 while leading Chicago to 62 wins and the Eastern Conference finals.

But the feel-good story took a drastic turn the following season when Rose crumpled to the court with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in the playoff opener. The top-seeded Bulls bowed out in the first round against the Philadelphia 76ers.

Rose sat out the 2012-13 season, and his long-awaited comeback last season ended at 10 games.

"I'm still shocked," Kirk Hinrich said. "I didn't have any idea he had an injury like that (Tuesday) at practice. I just feel for him. You can't imagine what he's gone through these last three years. Just when it seems like he was hitting his stride and playing great and it kind of felt like he had put it behind him, for this to happen is just devastating."

Thibodeau said Wednesday it's not clear when the injury happened or when team physician Dr. Brian Cole will perform the surgery. The coach wasn't sure how long Rose will be out, either.

If he misses the remainder of the year, it would be his third season-ending knee surgery.

"Heartbreaking, in a way, because of how much he's been through for the last couple of years," Pau Gasol said. "Difficult to deal with. We feel for him."

Thibodeau said the Bulls knew another tear was possible. The question is how Rose proceeds from here.

Dr. Alexis Colvin, an orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital, said he could have the torn cartilage reattached or removed.

She said a reattachment—the procedure he had last year—is the better long-term option. But he would miss the rest of the season. Removing the torn cartilage would keep him out at least six weeks, meaning a return would be possible. The problem is it increases the risk of arthritis.

Colvin, who has not examined Rose, is not ruling out the possibility of him playing at a high level again.

"The good thing, I guess, is it's not like he's (torn) two ACLs in the same knee," Colvin said. "It's meniscus surgery, which typically the recovery is not as bad as some of the other things can be. I don't think I would necessarily write him off for now."

Rose's return combined with the addition of Gasol as part of an offseason makeover had them thinking big again. The news came when the Bulls appeared to be picking up steam and putting their recent struggles behind them.

Ortiz on pace-of-play fines: 'I might run out of money'

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—David Ortiz has a deliberate routine at the plate.

He sounded prepared to pay for it.

"I might run out of money," Ortiz said during a colorful rant Wednesday about the new pace-of-play rule requiring hitters to keep at least one foot in the batter's box in some instances.

Ortiz said he felt this provision, announced last week, unfairly targeted hitters. One of the more radical alterations discussed, a limit on the number of seconds between pitches, was not implemented.

"I'm not going to change my game," the Boston designated hitter said. "I don't care what they say."

Major League Baseball can dock him, starting May 1, up to $500 per offense. Penalties were limited to warnings and fines, rather than allowing umpires to call strikes.

Another part of the initiative agreed to by MLB and the players' association will be the installation of clocks in stadiums to limit the length of pitching changes and between-innings breaks. Managers, too, are no longer required to leave the dugout to request video reviews.

In his first remarks to reporters since arriving at spring training, Ortiz said he wasn't aware of the batter's box rule.

"So after the pitch, you've got to stay in the box, basically?" he said, incredulously.

Yes, with one foot, unless there has just been a foul ball, wild pitch or other specified reason.

"One foot?" Ortiz said.

Yes, to speed up the game.

Ortiz then used a profanity to describe his reaction to the rule.

"When you come out of the box, you're thinking about what a guy's trying to do," he continued. "This is not like we go to the plate with an empty mind. No, no, no. When you see guys pitch coming out of the box, we're not doing it just for doing it. Our mind is speeding up. I saw one pitch, when I come out, I'm thinking, `What is this guy going to try to do to me next?' I'm not walking around just because there's cameras all over the place and I want my buddies back home to see me and this and that."

Ortiz blamed pitchers for wasting more time than hitters.

"How about the guy on the mound who goes like this for three hours?" he said, shaking his head back and forth to mimic the act of shaking off a sign.

Toronto's R.A. Dickey, one of the faster-working pitchers in the major leagues, said he loved the new rules.

"Bring on the pitch clock. Bring on whatever. I like it, because it makes the hitter feel uncomfortable," the 2012 NL Cy Young Award winner said. "I'm already fast, so it's only going to put more pressure on the hitter that has to get in the box and get ready before his routine. If you've got some guys who have a very deliberate routine - (Robinson) Cano and Ortiz and others that have a very deliberate routine ... they're going to have to speed up a little bit and that may take just this much out of their game. You know, that could be a enough to get a pop out instead of a home run sometimes. I'm great with it."

Manager John Farrell stressed the importance of letting the new rules play out for a season.

"Anytime a game is played a certain way for as many years as it has, an adjustment is going to have some growing pains associated to it," Farrell said. "But I think as long as everyone is aware of what the attention is and what we're trying to get to, maybe those growing pains become less frustrating."

The 39-year-old Ortiz had an .873 on-base-plus-slugging percentage last season, still a robust number for almost any player in the majors but his second-lowest since joining the Red Sox in 2003. He hit 35 home runs with 104 RBIs in 142 games, which is exactly what they've paid him to do.

Ortiz is set to make $16 million in 2015. His contract includes a $10 million club option for 2016 that could escalate to $16 million and become guaranteed, with the same provisions for 2017 based on plate appearances and passing a team physical exam.

As for how much longer he's planning on playing?

"You guys asked the same question to Tom Brady last year," Ortiz said, adding with a smile: "We are like the wine. Remember that."

Moncada arrives at Red Sox facility

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—Yoan Moncada arrived Wednesday at the spring training headquarters of the Boston Red Sox, another step toward completion of a hefty contract for the 19-year-old Cuban.

The Red Sox and Moncada's agent reached an agreement earlier this week on a deal with a $31.5 million signing bonus, a record for an under-23 international amateur player. Moncada had physical exams scheduled this week in both Florida and Boston, before the contract can be finalized. His representative, David Hastings, said earlier this week he hoped the deal would be finalized by Friday.

Wearing a white T-shirt, jeans and sneakers, Moncada entered the club's spring training complex in Fort Myers just after 8 a.m. and walked straight into the offices.

Red Sox chairman Tom Werner said there's still not a signed deal in place with Moncada.

President and chief executive officer Larry Lucchino and owner John Henry met with Moncada, a switch-hitting middle infielder with five-tool potential. The Red Sox will pay $63 million to get him, due to a 100 percent tax required by Major League Baseball for exceeding their international signing bonus pool allotment.

"There are a lot of strong feelings on that subject within the game. Some people favor an international draft to level the playing field so to speak, and that's a little above our pay grade," Lucchino said. "It's a CBA issue that has to be addressed. We'll play by whatever rules there are and take advantage of whatever we can on behalf of the Red Sox. I do think there's a lot of sensitivity to that issue on the baseball side and the players association. We'll see. The CBA's coming up."

Angels' Hamilton meeting with MLB about disciplinary issue

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles Angels outfielder Josh Hamilton is meeting with Major League Baseball officials about a disciplinary issue.

Angels spokesman Tim Mead confirmed the *Los Angeles Times'* initial report Wednesday that Hamilton went to New York to meet with baseball officials. The team declined to give any more specific information.

Hamilton hasn't reported to spring training in Arizona after undergoing surgery on his right shoulder earlier this month. He is expected to be out until after the regular season begins.

The 2010 AL MVP is entering the third season of a five-year, $125 million contract. Hamilton has been a disappointment for the Angels, batting just .255 with 31 homers and 123 RBIs in two seasons.

Hamilton also has a well-chronicled history of drug addiction and alcohol abuse, leading to previous suspensions.

MLB declined comment on Hamilton.

Blue Haus marches into finals; KB Hite stay alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Blue Haus bagged the first finals berth, while KB Hite remained in contention for the last one as they defeated separate playoff foes in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Blue Haus advanced to the finals following a 79-71 win over Bammy's Restaurant in the first game, while KB Hite stunned Armatech in a do-or-die nightcap, 75-64.

With the win, KB Hite faces Bammy's tonight for the second finals berth with the winner meeting Blue Haus in the finals this Saturday. Blue Haus, which remained undefeated in the tournament, has a twice-to-beat advantage in the title showdown.

Blue Haus topped Bammy's, which earlier pulled off an upset over the second-ranked Armatech, for the battle for the first finals berth after playing a balance offense and preventing its foes' shooters from heating up.

Five Blue Haus players scored in twin digits with Tony Diaz leading the way with his 23 points. Edwin Santos and Junar Guiab added 12, while Edsel Mendoza chipped in 10. Sam Fernandez contributed 8, hitting 4 of them in the closing minutes to foil Bammy's upset bid, while Ernie Moises also hit timely baskets and tallied 7.

Bammy's kept Blue Haus within striking distance and even tied the game at 51-all midway in the third, but it simply could not overhaul the latter's lead as the former failed to get baskets in streak from its shooters.

Alex Ocampo finished in double figures with 11, but made only two field goals in the entire second half and was scoreless in the fourth quarter. He either missed several of his patented pull-up jumpers or had limited touches against Blue Haus' good defense.

With Ocampo off, Jun Tabora was forced to lead Bammy's offense and help from Rodney Catalla and Jun Alipio came in late, as Blue Haus established a double-digit lead in the fourth quarter and protected the driver's seat.

Bammy's clearly missed the services of big man Jorge De Guzman and Blue Haus capitalized on his absence with Guiab, Mendoza, and Santos dominating the paint and getting easy baskets off extra passes.

In the second game, KB Hite also took advantage of Armatech's lack of firepower to pull off the upset and keep its finals hopes alive.

Armatech played without gunner James Abuy in the first three quarters, which ended with KB Hite threatening to pull away, 52-39.

Armatech was held to 8 points in the pivotal third, while KB Hite scored 18 to turn a 34-31 halftime edge to a baker's dozen lead. Randy Mungcal and Ed Pangelinan teamed up in the third-quarter assault with the former making 6 points and the latter recording 8 off back-to-back triples late in that period and a short jumper early in the second half.

Facing a double-digit deficit, Armatech tried to claw its way back into the match with Abuy finally showing up in the fourth. However, Mungcal and Pangelinan countered Abuy's baskets to keep KB Hite's safe distance. Abuy still finished in twin digits with his 13 points, but it was not enough to save Armatech from getting the boot.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Sam Fernandez pulls up for a floater against Bammy's Restaurant's Amor Zapata during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

First Game

Blue Haus 79 – Diaz 23, Santos 12, Guiab 12, Mendoza 10, Fernandez 8, Moises 7, Palacios 3, Buenabajo 2.

Bammy's 71 – J. Tabora 21, Catalla 13, Ocampo 11, Zapata 7, Alipio 7, Vargas 7, Saplan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-16, 40-34, 58-54, 79-71.

Second Game

KB Hite 75 – Mungcal 24, Pangelinan 17, Sison 8, Verano 7, Pineda 5, Montes 4, Garcia 2.

Armatech 64 – Montano 14, Tobias 13, Abuy 13, Berline 8, Gabaldon 7, Tolentino 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-20, 34-31, 52-39, 75-64.

ATHLETES

From Page 32

Ngirchongor's record-breaking feat in Pohnpei earned him the moniker "The Beast" as he won both of his events by leading from start to finish enjoying a wide distance from his opponents.

Abrams won three gold medals in the 2014 Micro Games ruling the 200m run by clocking in 26.29 seconds to break Yvonne Bennett's 26.41 time set in the 2010 Micro Games in Palau. She then added the 100m hurdles and high jump gold medals.

"I would stay in athletics. This is where I started and excelled in," said Abrams, who is studying elementary education at the Northern Marianas College and hopes to someday teach.

The 13-year-old Schorr was a member of the North Pacific team composed of Asia Raulersson, Ami Tsukagoshi, Luther Lizama, and Colin Ramsey that competed in the 2014 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship.

He was a semifinalist in the POJC's Under-12 division to earn a spot on the Pacific Oceania touring team.

Race, who started in tennis, also played basketball, soccer, athletics, and swimming and excells in all of them.

She helped Marianas High School clinch the girls' basketball, football, and swimming titles in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization.

"I plan to concentrate in soccer. I train twice a week with the CNMI women's national team and play for Shirley's FC in the women's league," said Race, who is aiming to continue playing soccer when she goes to college in the mainland.

BLUE

From Page 32

Dunn said.

Meanwhile, Winkfield received his award in the presence of his sister, Tamiko, parents Bob and Debbie, wife Kathy, and daughter Amethyst. Winkfield is the second member of the family to get recognition from NMSA as Tamiko was named Female Athlete of the Year in 2002.

"I am honored to get this recognition (Coach of the Year) because I had gone full circle as I also won the Student Athlete of the Year award before," the Marianas High School teacher said.

Winkfield thanked this family, especially his wife for the support and sacrifices and shares the award to the supportive parents of every swimmer he coached. He also mentioned the help of Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation, SSC and its officers, and the swimmers for their dedication to the sport.

"This award is not all about me, but all the people who work together to keep the swim program in the CNMI strong," he added.

Winkfield coached young swimmers Victoria Chentsova, Christian Villacrusis, Takumi Sugie, and Kento Akimaru in the Micro Games and the team brought home three gold medals and a bronze. The SSC head coach also mentored Chentsova, Sugie, and Villacrusis in the FINA event where the three CNMI swimmers earned personal best times.

Before the two international competitions, Winkfield took several SSC swimmers to Hawaii to compete in the Big Island Age Group Swimming Championships. The team recorded a couple of Top 5 finishes in Hawaii.

Although he encouraged his swimmers to aim for best times, Winkfield put more emphasis in character-building and sportsmanship than speed, according to the article Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White read before calling the name of the Coach of the Year awardee.

SABLAN

From Page 32

runs (second, 10), and RBIs (sixth, 145).

Camacho, who started his baseball career as a shortstop, is a three-time Francisco M. Palacios Golden Glove awardee in 1995 and back-to-back from 1998 and 1999. He is also the 1991 SML most valuable player

His brother Cris Camacho received the award on his behalf as the former is now based in Oregon for more than 10 years now.

Sablan is one of the CNMI's multi-awarded coach and manager, a baseball career that spanned for more than four decades.

"It is an honor to be inducted to the Hall of Fame. To be recognized by the people for my achievements and my contributions is really heartwarming. I'm glad that the people appreciate what we did. Especially on what I achieved in baseball in the 1960s," said Sablan, who won seven Manager of the Year awards including five straight with the Sablan Termites from 1989 to 1993.

He was also the Manager of the Year in 1968 with Giants and the last in 2001 with UMDA.

Sablan, as a manager, has led his team to numerous pennant titles and playoff championships.

His most memorable moment in baseball was in the 1967 Peace Corp All-Star/Saipan All-Star friendly baseball match where he hit a home run that landed where the CNMI Election Commission Office is today. Home plate was at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

Ichiou is considered to be the CNMI's ironman as he has competed in six straight Micronesian Games from 1994 in Guam to 2014 in Pohnpei.

He previously held the CNMI national record in the 400 meter run of 53 seconds before his now student Beouch Ngirchongor broke it in last year's Micro Games by clocking 52.80.

"I was surprised and speechless. I have mixed emotions right now. I will still do this until my legs can. Now I'm trying to coach the younger generation to pass on all the skills that I've learned," said Ichiou.

Chong-Tudela, the lone female inductee this year, both excelled in volleyball and basketball where she was selected as the CNMI's first Female Athlete of the Year. She has dominated volleyball and basketball in the Saipan Interscholastic Athletics Leagues from 1975 to 1977.

As an outside hitter, Chong-Tudela led Mt. Carmel School to three straight girls' volleyball and basketball crowns.

"It took this long but I'm happy for this recognition. This achievement is the result of years of hard work. And I'm very proud of it," said Chong.

Tan Holdings stretches streak to four

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tan Holdings FC's Takemoto Suzuki dribbles in front of Inter Godfather's defenders during the first half of their game in Division 1 of M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Tan Holdings Football Club extended its winning run to four after downing Inter Godfather's, 3-1, last Sunday in their Division 1 game in the M-League at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Three different players scored for Tan Holdings, which kept the division lead with its 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record. Martin Jambor, Sean Perez, and Nam Ho Lee had one goal apiece in Tan Holdings' victory over Inter Godfather's, which fell to fourth place in the team standings with its 1-1-3 slate.

Ryu Tanzawa drilled the lone goal for Inter Godfather's, as he lit up the scoreboard in the last minute of the match to prevent Tan Holdings from earning a shutout win.

MP United 3, Paire FC 2

In other Division 1 results, MP United edged Paire in the first game.

An own goal in the 78th minute handed MP United its second win in four games. MP United also recorded its two other goals in the second half with Zu Zheng firing in the 47th minute and Raymond Mercado connecting 20 minutes later.

Yoshi Ray Mafnas registered Paire's twin goal with his first one nailed in the 50th and the equalizer in the 72nd.

Wild Bill's 5, KFAS 0

In the second game, Wild Bill's blanked Korean Football Association on Saipan.

Tanapon Unsa starred in the lopsided win with his hat-trick, while Jack Thoensaket posted the two other goals.

Wild Bill's moved up to second place in the team standings with its 4-1-1 record, while KFAS remained winless in four games.

DIVISION 2
Kanoa 8, WNT 3

In the first Division 2 match last weekend, Kanoa FC routed the CNMI Women's National Team.

Bradley Brostrom toyed around the defense of the WNT, scoring six straight goals in the second half. Ho Jin Woo and Jherico Tiamzon hit the other two goals for Kanoa (1-1-1).

Kanoa's second-half explosion, behind Brostom's string of goals, allowed the team to overhaul a 0-3 halftime deficit.

Sarah Allen, Irish Pagarao, and Dianne Pablo found the back of the net in the first half to lift WNT (0-0-4) to a 3-0 advantage.

Sun Palace 2, Matansa 1

In the other Division 2 match, Sun Palace caught a big fish in pacesetter Matansa.

Jun Sik Kim and Kriss Kim knocked in one goal apiece for Sun Palace to hand Matansa its first loss in four matches.

Sun Palace also moved up to second place in the division with its 1-3-0 card.

Matansa missed extended its winning run, as only Tej Gurung scored in their game against Sun Palace.

M-LEAGUE FIXTURES

MEN'S DIVISION 1

Pos	Team	MP	W	D	L	Pts	GF	GA	GD
1	Tan Holdings	4	4	0	0	12	13	2	11
2	Wild Bill's	5	4	0	1	12	15	9	6
3	MP United	4	2	1	1	7	12	8	4
4	Inter Godfather's	5	1	1	3	4	11	12	-1
5	Paire	4	1	0	3	3	3	9	c
6	KFAS	4	0	0	4	0	1	15	-14

MEN'S DIVISION 2

1	Matansa	4	3	0	1	9	11	6	5
2	Sun Palace	4	1	3	0	6	7	6	1
3	Shirley's	3	1	2	0	5	8	7	1
4	World Resort	3	1	2	0	5	7	5	2
5	Kanoa	3	1	1	1	4	11	8	3
6	Thundercats	3	0	2	1	2	6	7	-1
7	WNT	4	0	0	4	0	9	20	-11

WOMEN'S DIVISION

1	MP United	3	2	1	0	7	8	6	2
2	Shirley's	2	2	0	0	6	8	0	8
3	Tan Holdings	3	1	2	0	5	9	5	4
4	Matansa	2	1	0	1	3	4	2	2
5	IFC	3	1	0	2	3	3	9	-6
6	Kanoa	2	0	1	1	1	4	5	-1
7	Paire	3	0	0	3	0	2	11	-9

UPCOMING GAMES

Feb. 28, 2015 (Women's)
4pm Shirley's vs MPU
6pm Tan Holdings vs IFC
8pm Kanoa vs Matansa

March 1, 2015 (Men's)
8pm World Resort vs Kanoa

MP United, Shirley's FC top foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club and MP United notched their second win after posting contrasting wins in the women's division of M-League last Saturday the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

MP United played in the last game of the weekend and outlasted Paire Football Club, 3-2, to improve to a 2-1-0 win-draw-loss record and gained 7 points for a shaky lead in the seven-team field.

MP United eked out the close victory after finding its rhythm in the second half. Karleen Reyes fired up MP United's offense with her back-to-back goals, which also put her team on top after Guinevere Borja gave Paire (0-0-3) the 1-0 halftime lead. Jayda Mendoza tallied the other goal for MP United, while Brittany Hodge delivered the other goal for Paire in the second half.

Just a point behind MP United is Shirley's FC, which bagged its second win in as many games following a 7-0 demolition of Independents FC.

Diane Pablo powered Shirley's FC to the easy win with her hat-trick, while De Jana Muna, Gabrielle Race, Angie Ito, and Jeraldine Castillo contributed one goal each. Muna drew first blood for Shirley's FC with her shot in the 26th minute, while Race gave the team its second goal eight minutes later.

Pablo made it 3-0 for Shirley's in the 36th minute and knocked in her last two in consecutive fashion (51st and 63rd) before Ito and Castillo joined the spree, finding the back of the net in the 64th and 86th, respectively.

With the loss, IFC slid from fourth to fifth place in the standings with its 1-0-2 record.

Meanwhile, the first game in the women's division ended in a draw after both Kanoa FC (0-1-1) and Tan Holdings FC (1-2-0) netted two goals.

Kanoa boosted its chances to barge into the win column after taking a 2-0 halftime lead off Marielle Gariguez's pair of goals. However, Tan Holdings battled back and forced the standoff with Renita Fleming and Wincel Bubos tallying one goal apiece in the second half.

Yankees trip Starz for 4th win

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brian Camacho drove in the game-winning run as the Saipan Stevedore Yankees completed a 20-10 demolition of the North Starz in last Wednesday night's Saipan Baseball League match at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

With two outs and Tony Joab, who earlier hit a two-RBI double, on base, Camacho doubled to deep center to bring in the Yankees right fielder and end the match in the bottom of the seventh via the mercy rule.

The win was the fourth straight, a winning run that include an 8-5 decision over 2007 and title contender Falcons, for the Yankees pushing them to a tie at first place with the defending champion GSM Brewers with similar 5-1 slates while the Starz dropped to 1-5.

Designated hitter Chris Camacho led off for the Yankees and was hit by a Jon Tenorio pitch, while Jack Sablan got on base on a shortstop Tim Cruz error. Both runners scored on Joab's double to make it 19-10.

Joab was left stranded on base for a while after Jerome Delos Santos and Peter Tomokane flied out straight to left fielder Ian Lizama's glove.

Brian Camacho then stepped on the plate and took Jon Tenorio's second pitch to deep center allowing Joab to run toward home where he was greeted by his teammates.

Left fielder Brian Camacho scored three times on a 3-for-6 plate appearance with a double and four RBIs, while catcher Ben Cabrera went 3-for-5 with three singles and two RBIs.

Batting leader Gary Cruz, 2-for-4, had one run and drove in four runs, while Joab had two doubles, three runs, two RBIs on a 2-for-5 batting.

Kevin Kapileo closed out and shut down the Starz in the seventh inning allowing consecutive hits to Ricardo Dela Cruz and Tim Cruz.

Jesse Sablan led off for the Starz and was forced by Kapileo to ground out to Yankees third baseman Gary Cruz, while Lizama flied out to center fielder John Tudela for the quick two outs.

Dela Cruz and Tim Cruz were left stranded on base after Kapileo struck out Chad Atalig.

Jared Camacho, who was celebrating his birthday on Wednesday, pitched 1.2 innings in the start and was tagged with four earned runs on two hits with one strike, and seven walks.

Peter Tenorio tossed 4.1 innings in relief giving up four runs, one earned, on five hits with one strikeout and no walks.

Jon Tenorio earned the loss giving up 13 runs, three earned, on nine hits, one strikeout, and three walks in 5.1 innings on the mound for the North Starz.

Heat take advantage of Magic miscues in 93-90 OT win
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Sports

Tan Holdings stretches streak to four
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Ngirchongor, Abrams are top athletes

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Micronesian Games multiple medalists Beouch Ngirchongor and Rachel Abrams were named the Northern Marianas Sports Association Male and Female Athletes of the Year in a well-attended ceremony last night at the Kanoa Resort's Seaside Grill.

ATHLETES of the YEAR

» Schorr, Race take home student plums

Robbie Schorr and multisport athlete Gabrielle Race, meanwhile, clinched the Tan Siu Lin Student Athletes of the Year for their remarkable feats in their respective chosen fields.

Ngirchongor ruled the 400m hurdles and 400m run where he broke the decade-old record of 53 seconds of Hall of Famer Tony Ichiou when he clocked 52.80 in last year's Micro Games in Pohnpei.

He was one of the seven that were named the July Athletes of the Month including weightlifter David Barnhouse Jr., and the 1,500m va'a team composed of Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, James P. Aldan, Carter Calma, Benusto Olopai, Jason Tarkong, and Joshua Andrew.

See ATHLETES on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Beo Ngirchongor, Rachel Abrams, Gabrielle Race, and Robbie Schoor pose with their respective awards during the NMSA Annual Sports Banquet last night at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

Blue Ayuyus, Winkfield recognized

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Men's National Team and Saipan Swim Club coach Jacoby Winkfield shared the spotlight with the Commonwealth's top athletes for 2014 during the NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held last night at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

The Blue Ayuyus were named Team of the Year for their historic feat in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup held in Guam last year, while Winkfield took the Coach of the Year plum for mentoring the team that represented the CNMI to the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei and the 12th FINA World Swimming Championships (25M) in Doha, Qatar.

The Blue Ayuyus scored a 2-1victory against Macau in the EAFF-sanctioned competition for their first win in an international event. The team was composed of Nick Swaim and Kirk Schuler, who scored the two goals for the Blue Ayuyus, Johann Noetzel, Ethan Dickinson, Trey Dunn, Joe Miler, John Taisacan, Jonathan Takano, Jireh Yobech, Joel Fruit, Daniel Agulto, Sean Perez, Ruselle Zapanta, Jehn Joyner, Kennedy Izuka, Lucas Knecht, Bo Barry, and Dae Won Jeon. Kiyoshi Sekiguchi coached the squad and was assisted by Taketomo Suzuki and Hon Kit Cheng.

Kiyoshi, Fruit, Dunn, Joyner, and Izuka were present to receive the award on behalf of the Blue Ayuyus.

"We're so excited to receive this award, which motivates us to work harder the next time we compete for the CNMI. This award is worth all the hard work and dedication we put during our preparation for the tournament,"

See BLUE on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Coach of the Year Jacoby Winkfield is all smiles after getting his award during the NMSA Annual Sports Banquet last night at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

CONGRATULATIONS!
NMI MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM - 2014
FOR WINNING THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MATCH OF A NMI MEN'S TEAM DURING THE
EAFF EAST ASIAN CUP 2015 (ROUND 1)
GUAM, USA - JULY 20-25, 2014

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Men's National Team coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, third left, and four members of the Blue Ayuyus receive the Team of the Year award during the NMSA Annual Sports Banquet last night at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

Sablan, Chong, 2 others inducted to HOF

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Baseball's Greg C. Camacho and manager Dr. Manny Sablan, veteran runner Tony Ichiou, and volleyball's Bertha Chong-Tudela were enshrined to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame last night joining an illustrious list of the Commonwealth's sports heroes.

The four were enshrined last night in a well-attended induction and sports ceremony co-organized by the Northern Marianas Sports Association and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Camacho has been one of the best hitters that the CNMI baseball's program has produced. He holds five Mobil Games records that included most hits (38), doubles (11), triples (4), home runs (4), and RBIs (75).

His more than 20 years playing at the then Saipan Major League earned him overall records in slugging (ninth, .51), runs (eighth, 185), hits (sixth, 226), triples (fourth, 19), home

See SABLAN on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Hall of Fame inductees Bertha Chong-Tudela and Manny Sablan, CNMI Hall of Fame selection chair Kurt Barnes, Chris Camacho, representing Greg Camacho, and Tony Ichiou, pose for a photo after the awards ceremony of the NMSA Annual Sports Banquet last night at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.